'IPI, like other businesses, is suffering.' PAGE 2
'First gas price hike this year.' PAGE 4

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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 93

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY MAY 12, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

3 new cases of COVID-19

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three more people in the CNMI have been confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, raising the CNMI's total to 19 cases.

These new cases, identified through contact tracing, are in stable condition and are isolated at Kanoa Resort.

» Mass testing resumes today

» 19 in isolation at Kanoa Resort

The three cases are all males, ages 19, 25, and 27 years old, asymptomatic, and are contacts of previously diagnosed COVID-19 cases who reside in the CNMI. Specimens were collected, processed, and confirmed positive at

See NEW on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 8pm, May 11, 2020**

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	151	0	151
Recovered	124	0	124
Active	22	0	22
Deaths	6*	0	6*

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	16	3	19
Recovered	12	0	12
Active	2	3	5
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			2,336

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.

**Saipan has 2 active COVID-19 cases. Community-based testing is still on hold until further notice. Guam goes five days with no new positive COVID-19 case.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

RELIEF GOODS
The Rotary Club of Saipan and Karidat Social Services teamed up yesterday to hand out relief goods via a drive-thru system at the Rotary Club's newly painted pavilion in San Jose. The beneficiaries were those who have already registered with Karidat.
KRIZEL TUAZON

United: Plane sanitized after positive test

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Airlines assured yesterday that they immediately removed an affected airplane from use and sanitized it after being notified that one of their passengers from the Guam-Saipan flight last Saturday had tested positive for COVID-19.

According to a press statement from United Airlines, it said that they immediately took action after being

See UNITED on Page 4

IT&E warns of 'spoof calls'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

IT&E subscribers in the CNMI were greeted Monday morning with a big mystery of unknown numbers that have been calling their phones. Once answered, an automated voice speaking in Chinese delivers a recorded message. The first blast of calls started at about 12:30am up to 1:30am and a second blast from about 7am to 8am.

After receiving several reports, IT&E quickly advised its subscribers via text messaging and through their Facebook page not to answer

See IT&E on Page 4

Non-traditional graduations are a go

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

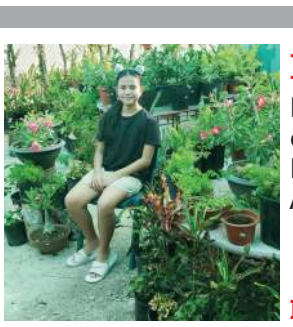
The Public School System has decided to pursue a non-traditional graduation to provide some sort of recognition for the Class of 2020.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada confirmed in an interview that the PSS administration, with help of principals, has been working on a way to promote graduating seniors and that they have settled for a

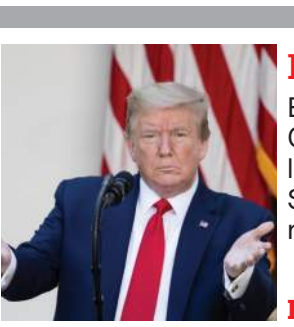
See GRADUATIONS on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
A male inmate allegedly stabs and wounds a male barber for being gay.
PAGE 2



BUSINESS
If you are dreaming of having a garden, Kiara's Garden in San Antonio can help you.
PAGE 11



NATION
Experts worry that CDC is being sidelined in the United States' coronavirus response.
PAGE 12

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Male inmate allegedly stabs a male barber for 'being gay'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Sporting a new haircut, inmate Kennedy Masubed is escorted by a Corrections officer outside the Supreme Court courtroom after his bail hearing yesterday afternoon.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A male inmate allegedly stabbed and wounded with a hand-made knife a male barber who had just cut his hair inside the Department of Correction in Susupe last Thursday morning.

Kennedy Masubed, 46, admitted stabbing the barber because the latter is gay, police said.

The barber had stab wounds on the top of his head and left temple and was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

Masubed was taken yesterday afternoon before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. A bail of $25,000 cash was imposed on Masubed. Preliminary hearing will be on May 20 at 10am.

According to police detective Kevin R. Maratita in his declaration filed in court, a police officer responded to DOC Thursday at 10:28am after receiving a call about a disturbance. When the officer arrived at DOC, he met with one of the inmates, identified as Masubed, who was inside one of the holding rooms in the booking area. The officer learned that Masubed had stabbed one of the civilians who was providing barber services at DOC.

Masubed allegedly admitted to the officer that, after the barber finished cutting his hair, he got up then stabbed the barber "because he is gay."

DOC Capt. Manny Quitano told the officer in an interview that he and another DOC officer were present in the room when the incident happened. Quitano said Masubed got up after getting his haircut, then turned and hit the barber twice.

Quitano said he pinned down Masubed and it was only then that he noticed that the suspect had a knife in his hand. The other DOC officer helped Quitano pin Masubed.

In a police interview with the barber, he said he goes to DOC and give haircuts to the inmates. In this incident, he had just finished cutting Masubed's hair when the inmate got up from the chair and suddenly started punching him. When he tried to block the punches, he fell. He said Masubed kept attacking him.

Police procured from the DOC Internal Affairs the "shank" or a hand-made knife that was seized from Masubed.

The police report did not mention why Masubed was in prison prior to the stabbing.

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Deleon Guerrero: IPI, like other businesses, is suffering

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Like other businesses on the islands, casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, too, is suffering.

Former Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward C. Deleon Guerrero gave this response to Rep. Janet Maratita's (R-Saipan) question at a House of Representatives session last week on what he thinks is the biggest obstacle for the casino industry to thrive in the CNMI. Deleon Guerrero, at the time, was being probed as a nominee to become a member of the CCC.

"One of the greatest obstacles that they're [IPI] facing right now…is the COVID-19, when everything is shut down. No one is allowed to enter or exit. They are completely dependent on incoming tourists, or their customer, to succeed. That's not going to be possible until such time that the Commonwealth feels that it is safe to open the borders freely," Deleon Guerrero said.

Outside the pandemic, IPI is also facing problems related to labor. "They are facing external problems in reference to accessing skilled labor. There is not enough local skilled labor, based on their entire review, more so because this construction is probably one of the highest quality construction I've seen in our part of the world. They needed access to skilled labor," he added.

Based on the casino license agreement, IPI still has to complete the initial gaming facility, with its 329-room luxury hotel, among other components, by Feb. 28, 2021. Phase 1, which would create the integrated resort, with 2,004 hotel guest rooms, among others, is supposed to be completed in 2023 but has yet to begin.

"This is a business. They are suffering too, but I believe the owners are still committed to finishing it," he added. "I think what we need right now is a little patience and we don't jump the gun. [That] we don't [have a] temper tantrum, and that we need to have consistency. We need to have a forward-looking vision, and we need to instill hope, not just for the Commonwealth citizens, but even for investors."

For the casino industry to succeed in the CNMI, Deleon Guerrero proposed that the Commonwealth examine how best it can work with the U.S. Congress to look at the external constraints that's affecting every business on the island.

Deliverables expected on both sides

Based on CCC's discussion with IPI's major shareholders, the lone casino licensee wants to move forward to Phase 1, but they have no land. IPI has asked for help in getting land.

"If you ask me…what [is] holding it up…I'm hearing from the horse's mouth [that] they want the CNMI to keep its part of the promise," Deleon Guerrero said.

He added that the Commonwealth needs to reexamine the deliverables expected on both sides. Just as IPI is expected to follow through on its part of the casino license agreement, the CNMI government, too, needs to follow through on what it promised.

"I don't think we need to renegotiate the license agreement. I think we need to fully understand content. Understand that this require mutual deliverables, that both sides need to keep their promises," he said, "that for policymakers, we need to focus more on hope and recovery, and move forward."

CCC to impose sanctions

According to Deleon Guerrero, violations should not equate to the death of the casino industry. The focus should be on compliance, but CCC will impose sanctions in cases of violations, he added.

He pointed out that the industry has bolstered the Commonwealth economy significantly, with the service industries having moved up in the last two or three years and the real estate value on the islands has even gone up.

The former CCC executive director stressed that it is best if there is a mutual understanding of focus on compliance, to understand, follow, and push through with following the rules. If the rules don't get followed, he said that "perhaps we may have to do the ultimate" but, at the moment, "there are still reasons to believe that this company can still fulfill what is required of the Casino License Agreement."

"There's a tremendous amount of good events that have happened," he added. "I think we should keep those in mind as we use them to drive us forward." In matters of IPI violations, he said that the CCC will be there to impose whatever sanction is necessary.

The Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations of the Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last week has endorsed Deleon Guerrero's confirmation, along with the two other nominees, former House speaker Rafael S. Demapan and former Zoning board chair Mariano Taitano.

The committee recommendation is expected to be discussed at the SNILD session today, 10am, at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

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Water service interruptions set

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for the areas of San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag today, May 12, 2020, from 8:30am to 4pm.

The cause of the scheduled water service interruption is due to a 12-inch main line break located on Chalan Pale Road near the former Plumeria Hotel in Achugao. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water operations personnel will be making the necessary repairs. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water service soon after. Motorists are also advised to proceed with caution when traveling through these areas.

Also, there will be a scheduled water service interruption for Upper Gualo Rai mainly for commercial customers north of the Gualo Rai traffic light to Taro Sue on Thursday, May 14, from 8am to 5pm.

This is intended is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, Inc. to connect the new 8-inch distribution main to the existing 16-inch main as part of CUC's Gualo Rai Waterline Replacement Project. As a result of the waterline replacement, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com1CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationl). ***(PR)***

THINGS TO KNOW

As of May 11, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

Updated Government Resource listing

The CNMI government has issued an updated government resource listing as of yesterday, May 11, 2020, which includes all government offices and agencies that are still operational and offering services to the public during the governor›s public health emergency. See Page 10 of today's *Saipan Tribune*. For additional details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

How Trump admin is supporting the CNMI

The Trump administration outlines how it is supporting the people of the CNMI in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA outlines telehealth service changes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issues a summary of key service changes to increase the use of telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include allowing rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers to serve as "distant site" providers, increasing the types of services that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services can deliver via telehealth, and allowing certain telehealth services to be delivered to Medicare recipients by phone. For details, go to https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/289d418.

USDA RD takes steps to help

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for more information. Or click on https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/2894700.

SBA Fact Sheet

The U.S. Small Business Administration has issued a "Fact Sheet for the CNMI" about the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Read it by clicking on the link at www.saipantribune.com.

Commerce Department in operation

The CNMI Department of Commerce will continue to provide services to the CNMI business community via means of teleworking.

For direct support and services, the CNMI is advised to contact the support team via the department's website at info@commerce.gov.mp and indicate the attention to the respective division or section for the appropriate services. See DOC advisory at the link at www.saipantribune.com.

FBI alert vs online scams

FBI issue an alert to the public to be on the lookout for scams that exploit the current COVID-19 pandemic. See FBI advisory at the link on www.saipantribune.com.

Process for mass testing

Mass testing for COVID-19 is ongoing at the Saipan International Airport. The test is free. People interested in being tested for COVID-19 can request for an appointment for specimen collection on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. website at https://chcc.gov.mp/covid19testing.php or over the phone through the COVID-19 Info Line. For more information, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

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First gas price hike this year

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw its first gas price hike of the year last week, with gas prices increasing by 15 cents.

Despite speculation that gas prices would hit an all-time low due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI saw its first hike last Thursday, the first hike of 2020 and the first increase since the economic downturn as a result of COVID-19.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. was the first to raise its gas prices Thursday morning, over a week since they reduced gas prices by 10 cents.

Mobil's gas prices went from $3.08 for a gallon of Extra fuel to $3.23 per gallon, while their Supreme fuel went from $3.53 per gallon to $3.71.

Shell Marianas followed suit, raising their fuel prices the following morning, Friday.

A motorist who requested to be referred to only as "Dan" said that it must mean that the economy is recovering. "Gas prices are going back up because the economy is too, or so I would like to believe. This means people are driving again so normally they'd have to raise prices," he said.

Dan added that he doesn't know if he should be happy that the economy is getting better, or that he would have to soon start paying $4 for a gallon of fuel.

A motorist fills her car with fuel at a Mobil Oil gas station. KRIZEL TUAZON

"I mean this wasn't going to last forever. All I can say is, I should've taken advantage of the low gas prices while I had the chance," he said.

According to various social media outlets, fuel prices have stopped falling and are beginning to increase, creeping back up to the average price of fuel before the COVID-19 pandemic, as parts of the country slowly reopen from shutdowns.

NEW

From Page 1

CHCC Laboratory yesterday.

These cases are being monitored by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. medical teams. CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts (close family members, friends, and associates) of these new confirmed cases.

It is not clear whether these cases tested positive because of current infections or if the tests are detecting viral debris of a previous infection from which they have already recovered. Contract tracing evidence indicates that these cases were most likely exposed through a small gathering of people from different households.

The CNMI's COVID-19 count is now at 19 cases with five active cases, 12 recoveries, and two deaths.

Meanwhile, after three days of being suspended, mass testing in the CNMI will resume today, May 12, 2020.

In an advisory last night, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force said that the mass testing, which it calls Community-Based Testing Initiative, will resume today at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Those who have been placed on priority scheduling before testing was suspended last week have been rescheduled for this week. For those who have been scheduled, should you not make it to your testing date, you will be placed on the waitlist to be rescheduled for the next availability. Contact the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Info Line at (670) 285-1672/1854/1352/1542 or through the new registration website, which will be released soon, to reschedule if you missed your testing date.

The new testing schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, 9am – 4pm.
- Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, 1pm – 4pm.

Note that testing will only be available for registered individuals.

A new registration website will be made available to the public soon. The task force will announce the website soon to include new questions to assist residents in registering for testing.

A total of 19 persons, including the five active COVID-19 cases, are currently in isolation at the designated Alternative Care Site at Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

Besides the five confirmed COVID-19 cases, the other 14 individuals were identified through contact tracing and are also being monitored at Kanoa Resort, according to press secretary Kevin Bautista.

"This is done to ensure proper protection of them and the community to eliminate the risk of potential exposure," said Bautista.

Additionally, there are 11 individuals who are in quarantine at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio. These 11 individuals did not take part in the community-based testing that is being offered once passengers land on Saipan and at PIC.

According to Bautista, once a person tests negative, they will be able to leave, but if they test positive for the virus, then they will be isolated and monitored at Kanoa Resort.

To date, there are 16 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in the CNMI, with two deaths and 12 recoveries.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Guam Public Health Laboratory was closed on May 10 and there were no tests run. GPHL resumed services on May 11. COVID-19 test results are reported from multiple labs at varying times of the day.

To date, there have been 151 cases in Guam confirmed through COVID-19 testing, with five deaths and 124 released from isolation.

According to the Joint Information Center, when a patient is released from isolation, he or she is no longer considered infectious.

The Department of Public Health and Social Services uses Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's test-based criteria for releasing patients from isolation. This requires COVID-19 patients to have two consecutive negative tests at least 24 hours apart before being released from isolation.

All remaining cases in Guam are in isolation.

UNITED

From Page 1

informed that one of their passengers had tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Satyrday.

The company said the actions include removing the aircraft from operation for the entire cabin to be sanitized. "The health and wellbeing of our customers and employees are our highest priority, and we have stringent procedures and guidelines in place to keep our customers and employees safe," United Airlines said in the statement.

It said the actions were in line with appropriate medical guidelines and procedures set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The carrier said they were officially notified of the positive COVID-19 test by CNMI health authorities.

The one who tested positive for COVID-19 was a 67-year-old male resident of Guam who had just landed on Saipan and was screened during the airport surveillance process. The specimen was confirmed positive at the Commonwealth Health Center laboratory. He was immediately isolated at the Kanoa Resort.

United Airlines, which operates three times a week—Monday, Thursday, and Saturday—resumed its Guam-Saipan flights last May 2 after a month of suspending air services due to coronavirus pandemic. The flights were suspended from April 6 to 30, 2020.

Skymark Airlines Inc.'s last flights between Saipan and Japan was last March 25. The suspension of Saipan-Narita, Narita-Saipan operation was supposed to last until May 10, 2020, but the company extended the flight operation suspension to May 31, 2020.

GRADUATIONS

From Page 1

motorcade or drive-in theater set up.

According to Vince Dela Cruz, Saipan Southern High School principal and coordinator for the graduations, schools will be pursuing a modified graduation.

"We're still pursuing graduation but it is going to be modified, meaning not traditional. The other high schools are doing a motorcade and when getting their diplomas, it's going to be a drive-thru," he said.

Dela Cruz added that there will still be speeches from the PSS administration, the keynote speaker, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and from the valedictorian and salutatorian.

"There's going to be prerecorded speeches like from the commissioner and even the governor to congratulate the students. We're still going to be doing valedictorian and salutatorian speeches and awards but they will be prerecorded," Dela Cruz said.

Specifically for SSHS, Dela Cruz said prerecorded speeches and award presentations would be downloaded into a flash drive and they will be given out to students along with their diplomas on a drive-thru basis.

Dela Cruz said schools will be sticking to the initial PSS graduation calendar.

"Whatever is indicated there, that's when we're going to do the graduation. The times may be a little different but the date is still the same. The first graduation is on June 3 or 5," he said.

On Saipan there will be four graduations—Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Da'ok Academy and one on Tinian and Rota.

There will be close to 700 graduates. MHS is estimated to have over 300 graduates, SSHS has around 150, and Kagman is expected to have around 110. Da'ok, Rota, and Tinian will have around 30 to 40 graduates each.

"All the high school teachers and staff got together to plan this out because we really wanted to give our seniors a little recognition," Dela Cruz said.

IT&E

From Page 1

or call the number with +1 (670) 783 prefixes where a recorded message in Chinese is attached.

IT&E further warned its subscribers to not give out personal and financial information to unknown callers, not to answer unexpected calls from unusual international numbers, and not to answer calls from blocked or calls labeled as "unknown."

In a second statement released yesterday afternoon, IT&E identified the unknown numbers as "spoof calls," when a third party falsifies the information transmitted to a caller ID display to disguise their identity so that it appears as if the call is coming from a local number.

IT&E assured its subscribers that their system remains secure and no evidence of a breach or hacking has been detected. The company said this is the work of an unknown third party.

Nina Valenzuela of San Vicente said that she received the first call at about 1am. "I woke up and thought, 'Who could be calling me at this time?' so I didn't mind it and went back to sleep. The first three numbers were 783. At 7am, my phone rang and I saw 783 and immediately thought it was the same person calling last night," she said.

"I answered it because I have been expecting a call from the [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] about my COVID-19 test results. When I heard a lady speaking in Chinese on the other line, I thought it was a wrong number and since I could not understand her, I hung up the phone," she added.

Others got engaged for a few seconds and when the voice started asking personal questions, that's when they knew it was a scam call and hung up.

One comment on the IT&E Facebook page who translated part of the recorded message said it was trying to say "that they are from DHL and there is a package that needs to be signed."

According to Michael (not his real name), an IT communications expert, call hacking is normally malicious or for monetary gain through a scam. "For the hacker to call all subscribers, they would have to first hack the IT&E main servers with all the accounts. That is scary as many of those accounts may have credit cards associated with them," he said.

"The hacker would have had to have had a URL link, broken it or could've stolen or hacked someone's password that had access to all account files. [There are] many different ways to get it if IT security is relaxed or vulnerable," he added.

Dennis Guerrero of Garapan said that this is an added stress to an already difficult time. "We are now dealing with a pandemic, with a new case of COVID-19 on island. My family and I are on heightened care once again for our health and safety and now this robocall comes literally like a thief in the middle of the night and tries to get personal information from you through an important tool of our life—our cellphones.

"I really hope IT&E catches the bad guys and put an end to this. This is not something we can tolerate right now, especially during this pandemic," he added.

So far, there were no reports of "spoof calls" among Docomo Pacific subscribers yesterday.

Spoof calls are not a usual occurrence in the CNMI, unlike Guam and in the U.S. mainland. A Guam resident said that spoof calls, scammers, and robocalls are almost a normal event in Guam such that the Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense and the Mariana Regional Fusion Center work with local telecommunication companies in monitoring reports of local subscribers receiving calls from unusual or unexpected international numbers from time to time.

In the CNMI, IT&E encourages its subscribers to remain vigilant when answering calls from unsaved numbers and to refrain from giving personal information over the phone without verifying if the caller is legitimate.

To report suspicious activity, IT&E subscribers can call IT&E Customer Care Center at (670) 682-4483.

O'Connor law firm wants out as IPI counsel in 3 suits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The law firm of O'Connor Berman Horey & Banes wants out as counsel for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in three separate lawsuits that had been filed against IPI by two former contractors in federal court.

Attorney Cong Nie, who is a member of the O'Connor law firm, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Wednesday to allow the law firm to withdraw as counsel for IPI in the lawsuits filed by Pacific Rim Land Development LLC and U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd.

Nie said that professional considerations warrant the withdrawal. He did not elaborate but said that the law firm may explain more if the court allows it to submit confidential client information under seal.

Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin Thompson, is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note), and unjust enrichment. Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed or completed the agreed upon construction work on Sept. 30, 2018, but remains unpaid by $5.65 million and is suing for about $10 million in damages. Pacific Rim also filed an application for a mechanic's lien on IPI's hotel-casino project and on the land that it sits on. A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

Another contractor, U.S.A. Fanter, is suing IPI for issuing statements published in two newspapers that allegedly contained libelous statements. U.S.A. Fanter asked the court to hold IPI liable to pay unspecified damages. The company also asked the court to require IPI to make a public retraction of the defamatory statements. U.S.A. Fanter also sued IPI for allegedly refusing to pay $2.08 million for construction work related to IPI's hotel-casino in Garapan.

U.S.A. Fanter asked the court to attach mechanic's lien to IPI's interests in the real property on the project.

IPI recently terminated attorneys Sean E. Frink, Catherine J. Cachero, and their law firm as its counsel in a lawsuit filed in federal court by seven former workers against IPI, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co. and MCC's subcontractor, Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC, over the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the worksite of IPI's resort/casino project.

IPI recently hired Michael Dotts as its new counsel in this case filed by the seven former workers. Dotts is a former member of the O'Connor law firm.

The seven former workers opposed IPI's decision to terminate lawyers Frink and Cachero and substitute Dotts as its fourth lead counsel roughly one year in this case.

The former workers, through counsel Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, said this is IPI's bad-faith tactic designed to further delay the collection and production of discovery at a time when IPI is shedding personnel, moving offices, and shutting down operations. IPI has denied the allegations.

At a hearing Wednesday, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted IPI's motion to withdraw Frink and Cachero as its counsel and motion to substitute Dotts as its new counsel in this case.

Cong Nie, who is a member of the O'Connor Berman Horey & Banes law firm, leaves the U.S. District Court for the NMI building.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CNMI to receive $1M in fisheries assistance

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas is set to receive $1 million in CARES Act funding for coastal and marine fisheries assistance.

The funding assistance is part of the allocation of $300 million in fisheries assistance provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, to states, tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fishery participants negatively affected by the pandemic.

The money may be used to offset losses caused by the coronavirus to commercial, subsistence, cultural, or ceremonial fishing, said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in his weekly e-newsletter, adding that losses may be direct or indirect, and must constitute at least 35% of revenue.

Under the CARES Act, the U.S. Department of Commerce is authorized to provide assistance to tribal, subsistence, commercial, and charter fishery participants affected by COVID–19. This may include direct relief payments.

"This relief package will support America's fishermen and our seafood sector's recovery," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries will be working with its partners to disburse the funds.

For the purposes of the funding, "fishery-related businesses," according to NOAA, is limited to commercial fishing businesses, charter/for-hire fishing businesses, qualified aquaculture operations, processors, and dealers. Vessel repair businesses, restaurants, or seafood retailers are not considered as such. "NOAA Fisheries generally does not expect bait and tackle operations and gear and vessel suppliers to be eligible for Section 12005 funding. However, individual states, Tribes, and territories will have the discretion to determine how they will identify eligible fishery participants, consistent with the requirements of the CARES Act, in their spend plans."

To access the fund, a spending plan for the money must be developed by the Commonwealth that is consistent with the CARES Act requirements and the NOAA guidance.

$50K to help low-income families with utility bills

Over $50,000 is coming to the CNMI to help low-income families with their utility needs.

The U.S. Congress, under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, has appropriated a supplemental funding of $900 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program—a federal program that helps low-income households pay for energy or make their homes more energy efficient—and about $4.5 million of that is going to the U.S. territories.

The CNMI will be getting $57,022, Puerto Rico, $4,075,312; Guam, $164,177; the U.S. Virgin Islands, $155,248; and American Samoa, $74,883.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the supplemental funding last Friday.

According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), the Marianas LIHEAP is getting the additional funding to help families pay utility bills, where the money is to be used for home energy needs associated with the COVID-19 emergency.

LIHEAP provides CUC crisis assistance when utility services are shut off, or about to shut off by paying for the connection or disconnection fee, by providing energy bill payment assistance, or by providing energy-related home repairs that will help save energy costs.

With people getting laid off and furloughed due to the pandemic, Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan), at a Senate session last month, called for the provision of utilities to be prioritized in the CNMI. ***(Iva Maurin)***

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Sewing Machine Operator – High School Diploma and atleast 3 months work experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

(2) Beautician – Skilled in all areas of beauty treatments such as hair cut, hair colors / highlights / rebonding; waxing, manicure & pedicure,acrylic nails. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.
dba Pena House Boutique and Salon
Ground Floor, Sablan Building,
Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa,
Saipan,MP 96950
Tel. (670)235-7270

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Beautician – Knowledgeable in giving Hair Cut, Hair Colors, Hair High-lights.

(1) Graphic Designer / Artist – Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. Minimum of 1 yr. experience as Graphic Designer / Artist.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing LLC.
Ground Floor, Afetna Building,
Beach Road, San Antonio,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 670-235-1680

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

GUEST RELATIONS (3)
High School Diploma is required. Two years of work experience in Concierge or Customer Service in hotel industry. Proficient in languages of Korean or Chinese or Russian is required due to the demographic of visitors/tourist to Saipan.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (7)
Must have a High School diploma or equivalent. No more than 24 months of work experience as building maintenance. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Must be able to lift up to 50lbs regularly. Safely climb ladders while carrying up to 40lbs. Able to stand, walk, sit, climb or balance, stoop, crawl kneel work at height up to 100 feet. Work under extreme weather condition s. Solid understand of technical aspects of plumbing, carpentry, electrical systems. Official apprenticeship preferred.

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR (1)
Bachelor's degree in Accounting. 48 months of work experience. Strong knowledge of Excel and Word and must be knowledgeable in using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Symphony, MAS 90 (integrating the General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, and Inventory Management modules) and Online Bank Business Connection (WebCash Management System).

BAKER (3)
High School Diploma is required. 6 months of work experience. Knowledge and experience in hotel/resort as baker is an advantage, Must be able to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays. The employee must regularly lift and/or move up to 10-25 pounds. Apprenticeship from recognized technical school preferred.

BARTENDER (3)
High School Diploma is required. Possess a strong knowledge in service standards, guest relations an etiquette. At least 12 months experience, must be over 21 years old. Must be able to work flexible shifts (weekends, holidays, night and days) able to stand long periods of time.

COOK (17)
High School Diploma is required. Knowledge and experience in hotel/resort as a cook is an advantage. 12 months' work experience. Must be able to lift and/or move up to 10-25 pounds. Must be able to work flexible shifts, weekends and holidays.

F&B SUPERVISOR (9)
High School diploma. No more than 12 months' experience in supervisory level. Able to work weekends, holiday and flexible shifts.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER (1)
• Bachelor's degree in Accounting • CPA license preferred • 5 - 7 years of accounting experience • Solid working knowledge of accounting principles and financial statement presentation • Well organized with strong attention to detail • Proficient with technology • Strong written and verbal communication skills • Experience within hospitality or similar industry

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, May 15th, 2020.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Justices affirm robber's 20-year prison sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed the 20-year prison term that was imposed on a notorious habitual offender who had pleaded guilty to robbing a poker arcade in Chalan Kanoa in 2017.

The high court justices ruled Friday that Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho did not abuse his discretion in imposing the 20-year prison term on Marlon Martin.

"We find the sentence was not mechanically imposed and was properly individualized," said the high court's opinion, which was penned by Associate Justice Perry B. Inos and concurred by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justice John A. Manglona.

The justices said that Camacho considered Martin's individual factors by looking at his prior criminal history, the circumstances of the crime, mitigating factors, aggravating factors such as the escalating seriousness of his criminal activities, and his status as a recidivist.

"These constitute just reasons for the severity of punishment and indicate a conscious consideration of Martin's individual characteristics and the circumstances of his crime on the part of the court, rather than a reflexive attitude," the justices noted.

Chief prosecutor John Bradley said Saturday that, while the Supreme Court did not accept their criticism of the growing number of judicially-created rules that trial judges must follow in sentencing, they are grateful that the high court was respectful of the discretion trial judges deserve in sentencing.

"Apparently, only the Legislature can stop the proliferation of new rules by repealing the provision upon which the Supreme Court relies for its authority. We welcome that discussion so that sentencing is simplified and victims are protected from endless litigation," Bradley told *Saipan Tribune*.

The justices said Camacho properly weighed various mitigating and aggravating factors and did not abuse his discretion, that Camacho considered Martin's repeat offender status, his previous seven-year sentence that failed to deter him, and his escalating, violent criminal endeavors.

While Martin's use of the hammer, an element of the crime, was given consideration, Camacho did not rely solely on that factor, said the justices. They disagreed with Martin's assertion that his demonstrated remorse, acceptance of responsibility, and lack of serious injury to the victim were not adequately considered. The justices said Camacho did consider Martin's remorse and acceptance of responsibility, but concluded that these factors were not significant enough to outweigh the aggravating factors.

Because Camacho gave his reasoning for restricting parole eligibility, the justices said the judge did not abuse his discretion.

According to court records, less than a year after his release from seven years in prison for robbery, Martin robbed Viva Poker in Chalan Kanoa on May 22, 2017, disguising himself with a mask and a hooded jacket and, armed with a hammer, pressed it against the cashier's neck and stole $500. In August 2017, Martin pleaded guilty to robbery as part of a plea deal.

Camacho had noted that Martin has six prior criminal convictions such as armed robbery, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault and battery, and theft. The sentencing was held in 2018. Martin, through counsel, asked for a sentence of time served, which was seven months and 20 days at the time, and to be deported to Palau.

Camacho sentenced him to 20 years imprisonment, denied probation, early release, work or weekend release, or other similar programs, and restricted parole eligibility to the last five years of his sentence.

Martin, through assistant public defenders Nancy Dominski and Jean Pierre Nogues, then appealed to the Supreme Court to vacate the sentence.

Martin argued that Camacho failed to properly individualize the sentence, mechanically imposed the sentence, impermissibly restricted parole eligibility, and impermissibly denied early release, work release, weekend release, or other similar programs. He also asked to remand the case to a different judge for resentencing.

Assistant attorney general Robert Charles Lee argued in the government's opposition.

ARMY RESERVE NURSES
Nurses from the 1984th U.S. Army Hospital-Pacific, headquartered at Fort Shafter Flats, Honolulu, Hawaii, are deployed to the CNMI to help increase the CNMI's medical capacity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 11, 1999

Telesource eyes Dynasty's vessels
In what appears to be a move to strengthen its business interest in the Northern Marianas, Telesource CNMI Inc. is planning to acquire two ferry boats from Tinian Shipping Company Inc. amid deepening financial troubles gripping the shipping firm. The two ferry boats are owned by Tinian Shipping, a subsidiary of Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. which operates the cash-strapped Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. The shipping company bought the ferry boats in 1997 for $10.8 million from Singapore with the help of a foreign financing firm.

Discrimination case vs NMC dismissed
U.S. District Court Judge Alex R. Munson threw out a lawsuit filed by a former instructor of the Northern Marianas College against the educational institution for alleged discrimination in the work force due to lack of jurisdiction. Moreover, Katherine Douglas failed to file her complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission within the 180-day period as required by law. "The uncontroverted facts properly before the court show that plaintiff alleged February 22, 1994 as the date of the discrimination against her and that the EEOC received her Notice of Claim of Discrimination on November 14, 1994, which date is well outside the 180-day period the statute provides for filing claims," Munson said.

May 12, 1999

Legal opinion backs abortion
The CNMI government is now faced with a dilemma on how to deal with the abortion issue on the island in light of a legal opinion issued by the Attorney General's Office that says that any woman may legally obtain an abortion in the Northern Marianas. The legal opinion was crafted in 1995 but resurfaced after discussion on abortion was resurrected in the House of Representatives early this week that has drawn strong opposition from the Catholic church. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday asked the AGO to review the constitutionality of abortion in the CNMI after meeting with religious leaders and members of the Legislature in a move to find a solution to the controversial issue which is now threatening to divide the predominantly Roman Catholic population.

Public warned vs fake health inspectors
Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday cautioned businesses against impostors posing as health inspectors who try to collect money from various hotels and restaurants. The warning came after the Department of Public health received complaints about the alleged Bureau of Environmental Health inspectors demanding payment during their visit. Mr. Villagomez has ordered an investigation on the extortion incidents as he urged the business sector to ask for identification cards from inspectors who come to their establishments to make sure that they are legitimate staff of the Bureau of Environmental Health.

May 12, 2004

Giving back to the community
As a child attending Hopwood Junior High School, Sylvan M. Rangamar already wanted to be a police officer and would voluntarily join the law enforcement program offered at the school. Fast forward 23 years to today, he is now known as Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar of the Department of Public Safety Traffic Section. "It's a commitment that I've made to our community since I was sworn in and given a badge," he said.

EMO to hold full-scale anti-terror drill
Basic training on what to do in the event of a weapons of mass destruction attack will go down to the community level when the Emergency Management Office takes the exercise to the streets and harbor of Saipan for a full-scale anti-terror training this month. The EMO, in coordination with the EG&G Technical Services, has scheduled a full-scale weapons of mass destruction and anti-terrorism exercise on May 26 at Saipan's multi-million dollar harbor. Press information officer Peter Callaghan advised the community not to be alarmed when the EMO and other related departments and agencies conduct reality-based and immediate response operations at the Saipan seaport. "The exercise has been dubbed 'Operation Safe Harbor,' and will test the real-time response of the participating departments, agencies, and organizations of the CNMI and federal partners in case of a terror attack," said Callaghan.

US Navy Seabees restore Tinian's Children's Park

TINIAN—U.S. Navy Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 completed a revitalization project at the Tinian Children's Park last May 11.

Seabees from NMCB 5 hit the ground running, building a jungle gym, repairing and rejuvenating the restroom facility, and clearing the children's park of debris that had piled up after Tinian was hit with successive typhoons in 2018. The last typhoon, Super Typhoon Yutu, was a Category 5 super typhoon that took place on Oct. 24, 2018 reaching winds of 280 mph wreaked havoc on this Pacific island and left behind over $854 million in damages.

"The park has been abandoned for anywhere between 10-15 years, with funds running out for maintenance," said Raena P. Cing-Cabrera, grants and projects manager from Tinian mayor's office. "Thank you to the Seabees for starting the revitalization of Tinian Children's Park." The clearing and revitalization of this abandoned park was done using multiple crews. One to clear the open park area of debris, while the other focused on the cleaning and repairs within the restrooms.

The debris around the park was removed using multiple trips to dumps around the island, including green waste, scrap metal waste, and general waste. The park's restrooms were cleaned using a power washer and repairs were made to the restroom sinks, toilets, and drain systems—including unclogging, replacing piping, and building and installing restroom stall doors.

The jungle gym consists of three slides, two sets of monkey bars, a firehouse style pole, and a pull-up bar. The jungle gym was built and solidified by the placement of a concrete footer to hold down in the system in the event of strong wind force that this island is accustomed to.

"This project is a meaningful way to give back to the community, because it's all about the kids having a great place to enjoy their free time." said Utilitiesman 1st Class Isaias Betancourtgomez, NMCB-5's project supervisor.

NMCB-5 is deployed across the Indo-Pacific region conducting high-quality construction to support U.S. and partner nations to strengthen partnerships, deter aggression, and enable expeditionary logistics and naval power projection. The battalion stands ready to support Humanitarian Aid/Disaster Relief and Major Combat Operations throughout the region. ***(Engineering Aide 2nd Class Yohanes Nuguse)***

Construction Mechanic 1st Class Joshua Hobelman, deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Detail Tinian, clears unsuitable sand from a sandpit prior to replacing it with sifted sand using a skid steer. U.S. Navy Seabees are working on a project to revamp a park on Tinian.

U.S. NAVY/ENGINEERING AIDE 2ND CLASS YOHANES NUGUSE

Construction Mechanic 1st Class Joshua Hobelman, deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Detail Tinian, uses a skid steer with a trenching attachment to carve a trench for the foundation of a jungle gym at the children's park.

U.S. NAVY/ENGINEERING AIDE 2ND CLASS YOHANES NUGUSE

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Nathaniel Jones, deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Detail Tinian, installs slide support legs for a jungle gym at the children's park.

U.S. NAVY/ENGINEERING AIDE 2ND CLASS YOHANES NUGUSE

Supreme Court reverses the trial court modification of settlement

On May 8, 2020, the CNMI Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Bank of Hawaii v. Angelina Rose Tamanrang*, reversing in part the trial court's judgment and order and remanding for an award of interest.

Angelina Rose Tamanrang entered into a loan with Bank of Hawaii and defaulted. The bank sued and the parties signed a settlement agreement on Feb. 7, 2019. The agreement stated that interest would run at a reduced rate from the date of signing. The trial court entered judgment and ordered interest to run from the date of judgment, Sept. 3, 2019, instead. Bank of Hawaii moved for an award of additional interest, which the court denied.

On appeal, Bank of Hawaii claimed the court erroneously modified the settlement agreement and denied the motion for an award of interest.

The Supreme Court found that the trial court abused its discretion in modifying the agreement and ordered the court to award interest to Bank of Hawaii on remand. ***(PR)***

'Not all heroes wear capes'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is celebrating National Hospital Week from May 10 to May 16 in the form of "A Week of Thanks," where the community can participate from the comfort of their homes while health care workers go to work to continue fighting against COVID-19.

National Hospital Week gives CHCC the opportunity to highlight the hospital and health care workers and the innovative ways that they are supporting the needs of the community during this pandemic.

CHCC has prepared a post for the community to thank them through CHCC's Facebook social media page: www.facebook.com/cnmichcc. "Please feel free to share your positive comments, meaningful quotes, or note of encouragement. Even during a time like this, you can make a difference by making their day shine a little brighter," said a CHCC statement.

People interviewed for this story agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity. "Thank you for working so tirelessly on the front line. You are an inspiration to all of us," said Jane (not her real name). "Thank you for being selfless and courageous."

"To all our courageous heroes who are helping others fight COVID-19, thank you for your hard work and commitment," said Joseph (not his real name).

Joseph added that if the community continues to practice social distancing, good hygiene, and staying home "we would be able to help 'flatten the curve.'"

"We should all stay home for them (health care workers), since they stay at the hospital for us," added Joseph.

"Thank you for working endlessly to help flatten the curve and risking your own life, leaving your own families, and working day in and day out in order to save others," said Sally (not her real name). "It may sound cliché, but not all heroes wear capes, and I hope that the virus will be gone soon, so they can all rest."

During the week CHCC will be dedicating one day out of the week for each team:

- May 11: Medical Staff and Mid-Level Providers
- May 12: Hospital Nursing Services – Medical/Surgical, ICU, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Labor and Delivery, Operation Room, Emergency Room, NICU, Psychiatric
- May 13: Ancillary Services – Laboratory, Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Radiology, Medical Social Services, Pharmacy, Dietary Services, Medical Records
- May 14: Specialty Centers– Hemodialysis, Peritoneal Dialysis, Oncology
- May 15: Hospital Operations, Management, Administration & Support Services – CEO, COO, Human Resources, Hospital Quality/Risk Management Program, Utilization Review and Discharge Planning Program, Infection Control program, Compliance, HIPAA Program, Accounting, Payroll, Facility Maintenance/General Support Services, Health Information Technology, Procurement & Supply.

PSS launches 'WiFi on Wheels' initiative

Under the leadership of Education Commissioner Dr. Afred Ada and the Board of Education, the Public School System is proud to announce an innovative new effort to provide free wireless internet to students and families throughout the CNMI.

Due to COVID-19, many students are relying on learning from home, but not every family has equitable access to the internet. The "WiFi on Wheels" initiative, or WOW, was created to promote equity and access for continued learning.

The goal of WOW is to support continued learning enrichment, communication, and access to information for students and community members who do not have internet access at home. PSS has equipped its school busses with WiFi capabilities and will send them to strategic locations throughout the islands. The program will be piloted and tested in the village of Kagman beginning on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, with an anticipated islandwide rollout on May 25, 2020. The program will then be launch on the island of Tinian and Rota on June 1, 2020.

The community is invited to participate in the pilot in Kagman on May 13 through May 20, 2020. The WOW program will be available between 9:30am and 11:30am during the weekday at four sites: Santa Soledad Church, Kagman 2 basketball court, Chacha Oceanview Middle School parking lot, and the Kagman Community Center. Residents are encouraged to drive to the locations and must wear a mask or face covering. Walkers are also allowed within the space; however, strict social distancing guidelines will be enforced for the public's safety. Content filtering is programmed to avoid access to inappropriate content. Community members must bring their own devices to connect to the free WiFi.

Information regarding the islandwide rollout and WOW for Tinian and Rota will be published at a later date.

The PSS would like to thank the Department of Public Lands, Youth Affairs Office, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Docomo Pacific, and IT&E for their partnership in supporting this effort. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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WEAR A MASK!
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!
AVOID HUMAN CONTACT!
AND NEVER EVER LEAVE YOUR BASEMENT!
ANYTHING ELSE BIDEN CAN DO TO BOOST HIS POLL NUMBERS?
PLAY IT SAFE
HITCH

EDITORIAL

The US still needs a coronavirus testing strategy

Congress included $25 billion for coronavirus testing in its recent aid package, and told the Trump administration to quickly expand testing capacity, develop better and faster tests, and create a "strategic testing plan" for the country. It's frustrating that lawmakers needed to spell this out. The White House should have long recognized its responsibility to support and coordinate state, local and private efforts.

Months into the pandemic, testing capacity in the U.S. has improved but is too small to show how quickly the virus is spreading. This makes reopening the economy hazardous. Even when the rate of transmission has fallen enough to allow some easing of restrictions, it won't be safe to let people congregate until new infections can be quickly identified and isolated. There's a risk, otherwise, of new viral flare-ups and even a second and worse wave of the disease this fall. Once COVID-19 is eventually brought to heel, a national testing strategy will be needed to confront the next emerging virus.

Granted, even though President Donald Trump told the states that testing was their job, the White House has helped here and there—boosting the production of swabs, rustling up test kits and supplies, and increasing payments to laboratories to enable them to expand. But the administration failed in its most crucial task: coordinating state and private efforts. Public and private laboratories have competed against one another for essential supplies, and governors have been forced to scramble as best they can. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan called on his Korean-speaking wife to negotiate a deal to buy 5,000 test kits from suppliers in South Korea.

Some states have managed better than others, in the absence of clear national standards on how much testing is needed, and without consistent help in finding labs with capacity. An effective national strategy would help states, cities, hospitals and private labs work together.

The good news is that efforts to expand testing capacity are starting to pay off, if more slowly than anyone would like. In the past week, some 1.75 million people were tested in the U.S. But public health officials want to see that number double. In a report last month, former Food and Drug Administration leaders Mark McClellan (from the George W. Bush administration) and Scott Gottlieb (from the Trump administration) said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention needs to set standards for all 50 states to test widely and conduct "contact tracing" to find and isolate everyone exposed to the virus. So far no states have sufficient capacity, though systems are being set up in Massachusetts, New York and California. (Bloomberg Philanthropies is helping develop the New York program.)

The Health and Human Services Department can use its $11 billion in state testing funds to ensure that the tests are high-quality and meet minimum standards for thoroughness, and that complete and consistent data are reported electronically. Age, race, location and health status are nec-

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Idiocy unmasked: Face coverings aren't a symbol of tyranny

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.

One of the things I love about America—and there are many—is her deeply ingrained rebelliousness. When the government tells us to do something, we instinctively question it.

Of course, all principles can be taken too far. It's good to question authority, but if a sign says, "Do not swim in pond, there are alligators here," and your response is, "I'll do what I want, you're not the boss of me," you're an idiot.

If you're on a lifeboat with several other people and everyone agrees to ration the fresh water, but your answer is, "Shut up, I'm thirsty," being the sole dissenter makes you the jerk, not the hero.

Which brings me to the newest form of fashionable rebellion in some quarters: refusal to wear face masks when warranted.

Note the qualifier "when warranted." I think mask-wearing can go overboard. In my neighborhood in Washington, D.C., I see joggers running alone on warm days wearing masks, and I wonder, "Why?" It's gotta be uncomfortable. But when I'm in a grocery store, I wear the mask. If I'm alone in an aisle, I might take it off—they fog up my glasses. But if someone is nearby, or if I'm in the checkout line, I make sure to put it back on.

Bear in mind, the CDC's recommendation that people wear masks isn't primarily about self-protection but the protection of others. There's little to no evidence that a mask will prevent you from getting the disease if you're exposed to it. There's some evidence that if you're infected with COVID-19, wearing a mask will help prevent you from spreading it. In other words, it's a medically sound courtesy to others.

I don't have any problem with Donald Trump not wearing a mask at his press conferences. He's tested regularly, as are the people around him. I think the television reporters standing outside at the beach wearing a mask are being a little silly. The camera can easily be more than 6 feet away. But the idea that public figures should model correct behavior isn't ridiculous either. It's a judgment call.

That said, what I find utterly baffling—and frankly, embarrassing—is the idea that wearing a mask in any situation is a surrender to tyranny and fear. Various cable TV and talk radio hosts have embraced the idea that wearing a mask is a concession to tyrannical social engineers and a "symbol of fear," in the words of Rush Limbaugh. Protestors boo suggestions to wear masks, and they carry signs reading "Just Say No" and "Don't Mask the Truth." At one store in Michigan, a security guard was shot to death for telling a patron to wear as mask.

Cheryl Chumley, the online opinion editor of The Washington Times, writes that the practice of mask-wearing is "like the red belts worn by the communists when they want to show solidarity, when they want to make public expressions of party loyalty, when they want to display their sacrifice of self for the greater good."

No. No, it's not like that. Wearing red belts to prove you're a good communist is not at all like wearing a mask to ensure you won't kill someone's grandmother—never mind simply to reassure said grandmother it's safe for her to shop at the supermarket.

According to any remotely recognizable theory of limited government—whether you call it libertarianism, constitutional-

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Reopen the economy? Working parents need schools and day care to open first

By KERRY CAVANAUGH
Los Angeles Times

Kerry Cavanaugh is an editorial writer for the Los Angeles Times.

Another day, another state relaxes its stay-at-home orders.

Just this week, more governors, including California Gov. Gavin Newsom, have given their blessing to allow previously shuttered retail stores, including bookshops, clothing stores and sporting goods dealers, to reopen for limited operations. Construction and manufacturing are getting the go-ahead in some states, while others are allowing some dine-in restaurants.

Of course businesses have to reopen eventually. It makes sense to take cautious, incremental steps toward returning to some kind of normal.

But while there's been lots of debate over which retailers can open and how many tables restaurants can safely manage, there's been far too little discussion of another serious challenge posed by the staggered reopening: An increasing number of employees are expected to show up for work, starting now. Their jobs can't be done remotely. But the schools are still closed, child care is limited and it's risky to rely on grandparents and extended family when babysitting could expose them to infected but asymptomatic kids.

What's a working parent supposed to do?

In Denmark, the government decided to open schools for children 11 and younger first, even before businesses reopened. It was an acknowledgment that parents need child care before they can return to work and to full productivity.

But in the U.S., the political push to reopen the economy has overlooked the working parents' dilemma. That shouldn't be a total surprise—the U.S. consistently ranks as one of the worst countries for family-friendly policies, like paid maternity or parental leave, paid sick leave, flexible working arrangements and affordable child care. Still, the lack of consideration is galling. Some of the governors who pushed to reopen their restaurants, hair salons, gyms and movie theaters early have not been equally adamant about making sure returning workers have quality child care for their kids.

In Georgia, while service and entertainment businesses opened in April, schools remained closed for the academic year. Most preschools and day care centers stayed closed too just because of the risk to staff and the complexities of complying with new safety regulations that limit classrooms to no more than 10 people. It's also still hard to find reliable supplies of gloves, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer. Such precautions and safety protocols are vital, but they're also going to make it more difficult for day care centers across the country to reopen.

The lack of child care is going to be a problem for months.

The vast majority of schools in the U.S. are closed except for distance learning. Most districts won't reopen campuses until the new school year begins in August or September. For a lot of working parents, the schools are their child care providers. Moms and dads can drop their kids before the first bell, and many campuses have after-school programs that run until 6 p.m. or later. That support system is gone.

There's no clear answer yet on whether summer camps or community centers will be able to open. Or whether it will be safe to do so. Some camps are transitioning to online-only experiences, but that doesn't solve the child care problem for parents who can't work from home (or for those who attempt to work from home while managing their brood).

It's hard to see how retail clerks, assembly-line workers and other working parents recalled to their jobs in the next few weeks will manage. The good news is that there are some safety nets for parents who cannot yet return to work. In fact, the pandemic pushed federal leaders to finally enact some of the family-friendly policies that have long been the norm in other countries—even if the measures are temporary and riddled with loopholes.

Congress passed an emergency paid leave program, but it has some serious limitations. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act provides 10 weeks of paid leave for parents who can't go to work because their child's day care or school closed as a result of the coronavirus. Sounds great, except that Congress exempted companies with more than 500 employees and allowed companies with 50 or fewer employees to refuse to provide leave if it would jeopardize business.

As a result of those and other carve-outs, more than 75% of workers are at companies that qualify for exemptions from the paid leave requirement, The New York Times reported.

The CARES Act passed by Congress specifically allows parents to apply for unemployment benefits if they can't work because their kids' schools or day care facilities were closed as a result of COVID-19. The act extends unemployment insurance for up to 39 weeks, including an extra $600 per week though July 31. Hopefully, the schools will open before the extended benefits run out. Unemployment benefits will also be available during the summer school break to parents who rely on camps or day care providers that are remaining closed because of the pandemic.

If the political leaders of the country are serious about rebooting businesses, they have to recognize that child care is an essential piece of the country's economic infrastructure. They need to figure out how to safely reopen the schools, day care centers and other businesses that care for the children so parents can get back to work.

IDOCY

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ism, conservatism, classical liberalism or even Americanism—the government has not just the authority but the obligation to prevent threats to public welfare. From colonial times to well after the ratification of the Constitution, governments took extreme measures—quarantines, inoculation programs, etc.—to prevent the spread of yellow fever and other epidemics. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington ordered the mandatory inoculation of his troops to prevent the spread of smallpox.

In other words, epidemics, like wars, are the great exceptions to limited government. This used to be Conservatism 101: The government shouldn't boss us around unless there is a truly compelling reason, like an invading army or, in this case, an invading virus.

What makes all of this even dumber is that all the federal government has done is recommend mask-wearing. Most of the places that require masks are private businesses. Admittedly, some are adhering to local public health guidelines, but so what? Why aren't these rebels going shirtless and shoeless into restaurants to stick it to the man and his Maoist "No Shirt, No Shoes, No Service" signs?

By all means, continue to question authority, but bear in mind, sometimes the authorities are right.

IDOCY

From Page 8

essary to show how COVID-19 works. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services can also bring financial incentives to bear, setting its reimbursement rates to reward labs for using the most effective tests.

Millions of them need to be done every week—until a vaccine brings immunity. Yes, states should be expected to manage their own operations well. But in a national emergency, they could do that much better with proper guidance and support from Washington.

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The science cop-out

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

If you thought the coronavirus presented difficult policy questions, don't worry—we have science.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom tweeted the other day, "The West Coast is—and will continue to be—guided by SCIENCE."

Joe Biden has urged President Trump, "Follow the science, listen to the experts, do what they tell you."

Neil DeGrasse Tyson calls the crisis "a giant experiment in whether the world will listen to scientists, now and going forward."

The invocation of science as the ultimate authority capable of settling questions of how we should govern ourselves is a persistent feature of modern Western life going back several centuries, and has always been a mistake. It is especially so in this crisis, when so much is still unknown about the coronavirus and immensely complicated and consequential public policy questions are in play.

Modern science is obviously one of the wonders of our age. We owe it an unimaginable debt—for technological advancements in medicine, transportation, industry, communication, computing and more. All honor to Newton, Turing, Curie and Einstein.

The world was slow to react to the coronavirus, and yet the genetic code of the virus was publicly posted by China on Jan. 20, and South Korea had deployed a test kit by early February. It's possible we'll have a vaccine by the end of the year.

Science has a limited competency, though. Once you are outside a lab setting and dealing with matters of public policy, questions of values and how to strike a balance between competing priorities come into play, and they simply can't be settled by people in white lab coats.

Science can make the atom bomb; it doesn't tell us whether we should drop it. Science can tell us how to get to the moon; it doesn't tell us whether we should go. Science can build nuclear reactors; it doesn't tell us whether we should deploy them.

If we are going to unquestioningly accept expert opinion, we'd better prepare for whiplash. At first, the elite consensus was that wearing masks was unnecessary. Now, we are told it's an essential piece of getting out of this mess.

We worried about running out of ventilators, but in recent weeks some doctors have been wondering whether they have been overused.

Then, there are the big questions. Science can't tell us how we should think about the trade-off between economic misery caused by shutdowns and the public health risks of reopenings. It can't determine the balance between shutting down a hospital's elective surgeries so it can prepare for a COVID-19 surge, and tanking its business.

The people in our political debate who most volubly insist that they are simply following "the science" tend also to be most resistant to nuance and prone to unscientific fervency. They are using "science" as a bludgeon and conversation stopper.

Obviously, science already has made an enormous contribution to our fight against the coronavirus, and may—through therapies or a vaccine—go a long way to solving this crisis. But life is not an equation, and neither is politics or policy.

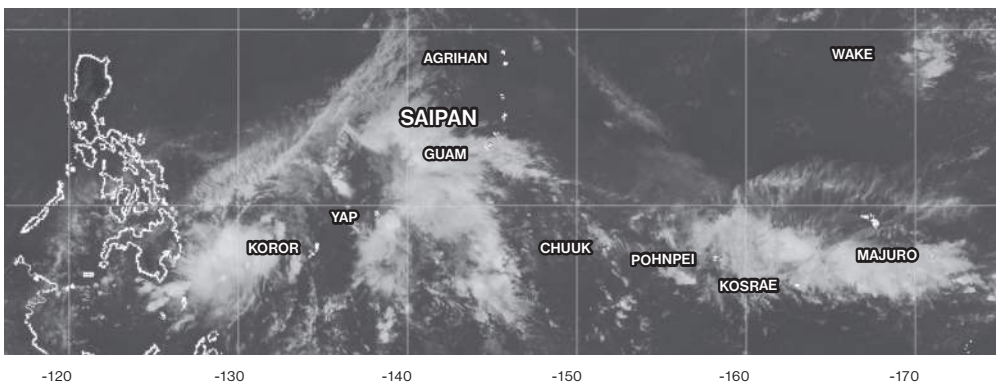
We as a free people will have to decide the important questions raised by this crisis, not the doctors on TV or the researchers in the labs.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
90° 79°	90° 79°	90° 79°	90° 79°	90° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:14 AM, MONDAY, MAY 10, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak trade-wind disturbance is pushing through Guam and Guam waters this morning. Showers are a bit less than expected, so decreased shower coverage for Guam to isolated. A couple of thunderstorms did pop up over the western waters and near Ritidian this morning, so also added a slight chance of thunderstorms to the Guam forecast. Otherwise, the forecast remains fairly unchanged through next weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Showers	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	88° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	59° / 43°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 58°
Manila	Thunderstorms	95° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 45°
Miami	Windy	80° / 75°
New York	Mostly Sunny	59° / 42°
Osaka	Sunny	75° / 57°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Busan	Sunny	72° / 55°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	75° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	77° / 53°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 51°
Seoul	Sunny	70° / 52°
Tokyo	Sunny	81° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	62° / 44°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:02 AM	11:26 PM
Wednesday	-	10:58 AM	-
Thursday	12:15 AM	11:52 AM	-
Friday	12:59 AM	12:43 PM	-
Saturday	1:39 AM	1:32 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:20 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
5:54 AM	LOW TIDE	1.36
10:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.78
5:46 PM	LOW TIDE	–0.10

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 1 (MAY 11, 2020)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
- ***Cashier & Customer Service***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4282
  Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free Tel: 1-(855)-729-2282

CNMI State Medicaid Agency
- ***Eligibility Office & Accounting / Claims***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
  Still accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal/ redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp

Department of Labor
- ***Assistance with Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) programs call:***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 670-989-9090 / 9084 / 9081 / 9089 / 9083 / 9080
  Email: info@puamarianas.com
  Website: marianaslabor.net

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- *Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from*
  9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
  Email: maryann@ovrgov.net

Department of Public Works
- ***Administrative Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 235-9570 / 5818
- ***Building Safety Code Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-2726 / 2296
- ***Energy Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 664-4480 / 4481
- ***Technical Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9828 / 9838
- ***Roads and Grounds Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 322-9498
- ***Solid Waste Management Division***
  - ***Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill***
    Open all week except Wednesday
    7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 322-2745

Dept. of Land and Natural Resources
- ***Division of Land Registration***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-9987
- ***Division of Agriculture***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 256-3320
- ***Division of Fish & Wildlife***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-6000

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 2 (MAY 11, 2020)

Department of Finance
- ***Division of Revenue & Taxation***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-1000
- ***ALL OTHER DIVISIONS (Except Customs)***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

- ***Division of Customs Services***
  - ***Airport:*** OPEN DAILY
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Seaport:*** Monday - Friday
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Chalan Kanoa Post Office:***
    Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
    Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Department of Public Lands
- Cashier Window
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54
  For Appointments Call (670) 234-3751 or email dpl@dpl.gov.

Saipan Zoning Office
- *Available via phone only*
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9661/2/3
  Email: yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp

Office of the Attorney General
- ***Civil & Criminal Divisions***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 237-7500 / 7600

Department of Public Safety
- ***Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV)***
  - ***Document Drop-Off For Vehicle / Watercraft Registration Renewal***
    Monday - Thursday
    9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 664-9068
  - ***Document Drop-Off / Pick-up Drivers License***
    Monday - Thursday
    9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 664-9066
- ***Firearms and Records***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (For Walk-Ins)
  Tel: (670) 664-9072
- ***Highway Safety Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9121 / 9125 / 9131

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- ***Fire Enforcement Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9178

Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs
- Monday – Friday
  7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 488-0220 / 0440
  Email: 0550glenna.reyes@gov.mp

Office of the Public Defender
- Monday - Friday
  9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-6503

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046

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Business

KIARA'S GARDEN:

A glimpse of paradise

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

If you are dreaming of having a garden that is filled with greens and a wonderful range of colors from flowers that make you feel you're in a tropical paradise, then look no further because Kiara's Garden located in San Antonio can help you achieve this goal without spending a fortune.

Owner and gardener Dhez Javier's passion for growing plants and nurturing them has led her to open up her own plant nursery. Today, she sells sought-after orchids and tropical plants.

"I opened Kiara's garden in 2019. I've been in gardening for a very long time and the result of this experience is having grown and nurtured healthy and beautiful plants that will bring joy to any person who wants to build their own garden, whether they have a small or big space at home," she said.

"I find gardening to be therapeutic. I enjoy taking care and watching plants grow. Gardening keeps me busy," she added.

For more information, call (670) 989-1062 or visit their Facebook page: Kiara's Garden.

CONTIBUTED PHOTOS
Gardener Dhez Javier said that Kiara's Garden is named after her niece (in photo).

Kiara's Garden is located behind the Loving Hands Daycare in San Antonio Village.

For greens and plants that will give your garden shade, Kiara's Garden has palms, ferns, rubber plants, ficus/weeping fig, aloe vera, spider plants, hanging plants, peace lily, succulent and cacti, lucky bamboo, and ti leaf plants.

For different blooms, Javier nurtures a wide array of orchids, desert rose, roses, dracaena, bigonia, water lilies, hibiscus, border plants, euphorbia, yucca, petonia, air plants, calendula flowers, ginger plants, and many more. Her price range is from $4 to $10.

Javier said that she loves the connection she has with her customers. "I have people visit my personal garden and the plants catch the interest of many people. Our love for plants make me and my customers connect."

Kiara's Garden carries a wide variety of blooms and greens.

Kiara's Garden is located behind the Loving Hands Daycare in San Antonio Village, Saipan. They are open from Monday to Sunday from 9am to 5pm. For more information, call (670) 989-1062 or visit their Facebook page: Kiara's Garden.

Shanghai Disneyland reopens with anti-virus controls

SHANGHAI (AP)—Visitors wearing face masks streamed into Shanghai Disneyland as China's most prominent theme park reopened Monday in a new step toward rolling back anti-coronavirus controls that shut down its economy.

The park, which closed Jan. 25, will limit visitor numbers and is keeping some attractions closed in line with social distancing guidelines, company executives said.

The reopening adds to efforts by companies and the ruling Communist Party to revive the world's second-largest economy following a shutdown that plunged it into its worst slump since at least the 1960s.

"We hope that today's reopening serves as a beacon of light across the globe, providing hope and inspiration to everyone," the president of Shanghai Disney Resort, Joe Schott, told reporters.

China, where the pandemic began in December, was the first economy to shut down and the first to reopen after the ruling party declared the disease under control in early March.

Factories and shops have reopened but cinemas, karaoke parlors, gyms and other businesses still are closed.

Disney guests, many wearing Mickey Mouse ears, and children dressed as movie characters were checked for the virus's telltale fever at the gate. The company's signature tune, "When You Wish Upon a Star" played over loudspeakers.

Decals on sidewalks and at lines for attractions show visitors where to stand to keep a safe distance. The company said rides will be limited to one group of visitors per car to keep strangers separated.

"Excited about the opening of the gate!" people in the first group of guests shouted as they entered the park.

Visitors are required to make advance reservations, show government-issued identification and download a smartphone app issued by the Shanghai city government that tracks their health and their contacts with anyone who might have been exposed to the virus.

BankGuam Holding Company to hold annual meeting

HAGATNA, Guam—BankGuam Holding Company announced that in order to support the health and well-being of its shareholders, directors, officers, and employees in light of the public health impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, there will be no in-person shareholder attendance at its annual meeting of shareholders scheduled for Monday, May 18, at 7pm Chamorro Standard Time.

Instead, interested shareholders will be able to listen to the annual meeting live by following the instructions below.

Shareholders of record as of the close of business on March 24, 2020, the record date for the annual meeting, can obtain instructions to listen to the annual meeting by calling the Bank of Guam trust department during business hours the week of May 11, 2020 through May 15, 2020, at 671-472-5743. The Bank of Guam trust department will verify share ownership as of the record date by asking for the shareholder's Computershare account number included with the proxy materials for the annual meeting. Please have your Computershare account number available prior to calling the trust department. ***(PR)***

Trump advisers cite need to stop 'permanent' economic toll

WASHINGTON (AP)—Some of President Donald Trump's top economic advisers emphasized on Sunday the importance of states getting more businesses and offices open even as the pandemic makes its way to the White House complex, forcing three members of the administration's coronavirus task force into self-quarantine.

The president and governors who will decide when to reopen their states are facing competing pressures. More economic activity and travel will likely lead to more people contracting COVID-19. But tight restrictions on which businesses can operate are causing millions of people to join the ranks of the unemployed. Decisions about how fast to reopen come with a general election less than six months away, and Trump and other incumbents facing the prospects of seeking another term in the midst of a public health and economic crisis.

"If we do this carefully, working with the governors, I don't think there's a considerable risk," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on "Fox News Sunday." "Matter of fact, I think there's a considerable risk of not reopening. You're talking about what would be permanent economic damage to the American public."

Another 3.2 million U.S. workers applied for jobless benefits last week, bringing the total over the last seven weeks to 33.5 million as states restrict activities to slow the spread of the virus. Mnuchin said the jobless numbers "are probably going to get worse before they get better," but he expected the economic numbers to improve in the second half of 2020 and that next year would be a "great year."

Gov. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, announced this past week that his state's bars and restaurants can fully reopen in two weeks, on May 21, with outside dining allowed a few days earlier. Barbershops, hair salons, nail salons and day spas will also reopen this coming Friday.

He said he wished the number of coronavirus cases were going down, but the state needs to come back "very carefully."

"We've got to try to do two things at once and it's, you know, no one is underestimating how difficult this is, but it's something that we have to do," DeWine said on Fox.

The White House dispatched several of its top economic advisers to hit the Sunday talk shows. The appearances came on the heels of three key advisers, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, taking new precautionary steps after coming into contact with someone who had tested positive for COVID-19.

Fauci is the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and has become nationally known for his simple and direct explanations to the public about the coronavirus and COVID-19, the disease it causes. Also quarantining are Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Stephen Hahn.

Nation

Experts worry CDC is sidelined in coronavirus response

AP
President Donald Trump gestures during a White House National Day of Prayer Service in the Rose Garden of the White House, Thursday, May 7, 2020, in Washington.

NEW YORK (AP)—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has repeatedly found its suggestions for fighting the coronavirus outbreak taking a backseat to other concerns within the Trump administration. That leaves public health experts outside government fearing the agency's decades of experience in beating back disease threats are going to waste.

"You have the greatest fighting force against infectious diseases in world history. Why would you not use them?" said Dr. Howard Markel, a public health historian at the University of Michigan.

The complaints have sounded for months. But they have become louder following repeated revelations that transmission-prevention guidance crafted by CDC scientists was never adopted by the White House.

The latest instance surfaced Thursday, when The Associated Press reported that President Donald Trump's administration shelved a CDC document containing step-by-step advice to local authorities on how and when to reopen restaurants and other public places during the current pandemic.

The administration has disputed the notion that the CDC had been sidelined, saying the agency is integral to the administration's plans to expand contact tracing nationwide.

But it's clear that the CDC is playing a much quieter role than it has during previous outbreaks.

The nation's COVID-19 response has seen a strange turn for the CDC, which opened in 1946 in Atlanta as The Communicable Disease Center to prevent the spread of malaria with a $10 million budget and a few hundred employees. Today, the agency has a core budget of more than $7 billion—a sum that has been shrinking in recent years—and employs nearly 11,000 people.

The CDC develops vaccines and diagnostic tests. Its experts advise doctors how best to treat people, and teach state, local and international officials how to fight and prevent disease. Among the CDC's elite workforce are hundreds of the world's foremost disease investigators—microbiologists, pathologists and other scientists dispatched to investigate new and mysterious illnesses.

In 2009, when a new type of flu virus known at the time as swine flu spread around the world, the CDC held almost daily briefings. Its experts released information on a regular basis to describe the unfolding scientific understanding of the virus, and the race for a vaccine.

The federal response to the coronavirus pandemic initially followed a similar pattern.

CDC first learned in late December of the emergence of a new disease in China, and the U.S. identified its first case in January. In those early days, the CDC held frequent calls with reporters. It also quickly developed a test it could run at its labs, and a test kit to be sent to state health department labs to detect the virus.

But February proved to be a disaster. The test kit was flawed, delaying the ability of states to do testing. A CDC-run surveillance system, meant to look for signs of the virus in people who had thought they had the flu, was slow to get off the ground. Officials at the CDC and at other federal agencies were slow to recognize infections from Europe were outpacing ones from travelers to China.

But politically speaking, one the most striking moments that month was something that the CDC—in the eyes of public health experts—got perfectly right.

Leaders balance optimism with threat of second virus wave

HOUSTON (AP)—Trump administration officials spoke optimistically about a relatively quick rebound from the coronavirus Sunday as life within the White House reflected the stark challenges still posed by the pandemic, with Vice President Mike Pence "self-isolating" after one of his aides tested positive.

A balancing act was playing out the world over, with leaders starting to loosen lockdowns that have left millions unemployed while also warning of the threat of a second wave of infections.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin predicted the American economy would rebound in the second half of this year from unemployment rates that rival the Great Depression. Another 3.2 million U.S. workers applied for jobless benefits last week, bringing the total over the last seven weeks to 33.5 million.

"I think you're going to see a bounce-back from a low standpoint," said Mnuchin, speaking on "Fox News Sunday."

But the director of the University of Washington institute that created a White House-endorsed coronavirus model said the moves by states to reopen businesses "will translate into more cases and deaths in 10 days from now." Dr. Christopher Murray of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation said states where cases and deaths are going up more than expected include Illinois, Arizona, Florida and California.

A reminder of the continued threat, Pence's move came after three members of the White House's coronavirus task force placed themselves in quarantine after coming into contact with the aide. An administration official said Pence was voluntarily keeping his distance from other people and has repeatedly tested negative for COVID-19 since his exposure. He plans to be at the White House Monday.

Families, meanwhile, marked Mother's Day in a time of social distancing. For many, it was their first without loved ones lost in the pandemic. Others sent good wishes from a safe distance or through phone and video calls.

The virus has caused particular suffering for the elderly, with more than 26,000 deaths in nursing homes and long-term care facilities in the United States, according to an Associated Press tally.

At a senior center in Smyrna, Georgia, 73-year-old Mary Washington spoke to her daughter Courtney Crosby and grandchild Sydney Crosby through a window.

In Germany, children who live outside the country were allowed to enter for a Mother's Day visit. Germany's restrictions currently forbid entry except for "compelling reasons," such as work.

In Grafton, West Virginia, where the tradition of Mother's Day began 112 years ago, the brick building now known as the International Mother's Day Shrine held its first online-only audience. Anna Jarvis first held a memorial service for her mother and all mothers on the second Sunday of May in 1908.

"Sheltered safely at home with the family together would be viewed by Anna Jarvis as exactly the way she wanted Mother's Day to be observed," said Marvin Gelhausen, chairman of the shrine's board of trustees, in an address on YouTube.

Matilda Cuomo, the mother of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, called into her son's daily briefing so he and his three daughters could wish her a happy Mother's Day.

"I am so blessed as many mothers today are," she said.

The governor announced two policy reversals a day after an Associated Press report in which residents' relatives, watchdog groups and politicians alleged he was not doing enough to counter the surge of deaths in nursing homes, where about 5,300 residents have died. Nursing home staff in New York will now have to undergo COVID-19 tests twice a week, and facilities will no longer be required to take in hospital patients who were infected.

Pence spends weekend at home after exposure to infected aide

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Mike Pence was self-isolating Sunday after an aide tested positive for the coronavirus last week, but he planned to return to the White House on Monday.

An administration official said Pence was voluntarily keeping his distance from other people in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has repeatedly tested negative for COVID-19 since his exposure but was following the advice of medical officials.

His action came after three of the nation's top scientists took their own protective steps following possible exposure to a White House staffer infected by the coronavirus.

"Vice President Pence will continue to follow the advice of the White House Medical Unit and is not in quarantine," spokesman Devin O'Malley said Sunday. "Additionally, Vice President Pence has tested negative every single day and plans to be at the White House tomorrow."

Pence has been at home since returning to Washington from a day trip to Iowa on Friday and did not appear at President Donald Trump's meeting with military leaders Saturday at the White House. Pence was informed of the aide's positive test shortly before departing for that trip.

An official initially said Pence planned to continue working from home, before Pence's office clarified that he planned to work from the White House on Monday. It was not immediately clear how Pence's steps to self-isolate would impact his professional or public engagements.

Pence has led the White House coronavirus task force for more than two months. Top officials who have gone into quarantine because of exposure to a person at the White House who tested positive for the virus are Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the CDC; and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Stephen Hahn.

Pence's press secretary, Katie Miller, tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday, making her the second person who works at the White House complex known to test positive for the virus this week.

A military service member who acts as a valet to the president tested positive on Thursday, the first known instance where a person in close proximity to the president at the White House had tested positive.

World

China cases rise, students back

BANGKOK (AP)—China reported another rise in coronavirus cases on Monday, as the government reminded people to step up personal protection against the virus.

The warning from Mi Feng, spokesperson for the National Health Commission, came as 17 new cases were reported, up from 14 the day before which had represented the first double-digit increase in 10 days.

Of the 17 new cases, seven were listed as imported, while five were in the city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the pandemic, where a strict lockdown was lifted last month.

Another five cases were spread across three northeastern provinces, including Jilin, where authorities suspended train service in and out of a county where a cluster originating with a 45-year-old woman was recently detected.

At a news conference Sunday, Mi renewed calls for people to avoid social gatherings and to "seek medical advice or testing in designated hospitals if they exhibit symptoms such as fever, cough or fatigue."

Despite that, 82,000 third-year middle school students in Beijing returned to classes Monday to prepare for their high school entrance exams.

Also Monday, the National Health Commission said there had been no new deaths, extending that record for almost a month, and 141 people remained in hospital in treatment.

Another 783 people were under isolation and observation for being suspected cases or for having tested positive without showing any symptoms.

China has recorded a total of 4,633 deaths from the virus among 82,918 cases of COVID-19.

UK's Johnson lays out road map for easing virus lockdown

LONDON (AP)—U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday outlined a "conditional plan" for reopening British society in the coming months, including the possible return to school for some young children at the start of June, as well as some easing of the coronavirus lockdown in England.

In a televised address to the nation, Johnson said this is "not the time, simply, to end the lockdown this week," but that it was appropriate to make some changes, including encouraging people with jobs that cannot be done from home to return to work.

However, his plan of action lacked many details and raised a series of new questions, not least over potentially divergent approaches by the four constituent nations of the U.K.—England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. More details will be unveiled in Parliament on Monday.

Johnson said it would be "madness" to loosen restrictions so much that a second spike in cases emerges. The U.K. recorded as of Sunday almost 32,000 virus-related deaths, the most in Europe and the second-highest pandemic toll worldwide. Johnson said that without the lockdown, in place since March 23, half a million people may have lost their lives.

"We must continue to control the virus and save lives," the prime minister said from an office at 10 Downing Street. "And yet we must also recognize that this campaign against the virus has come at colossal cost to our way of life."

The lockdown has reduced the transmission of the novel coronavirus in the community, but has come at a heavy economic cost. Johnson, who returned to work only two weeks ago following his hospitalization for COVID-19, has come under pressure to relieve the pressure on the economy.

He said the government would proceed cautiously but that he could announce "the first careful steps" in relaxing the lockdown in England.

Citing virus, Iran says it's ready for prisoner swap with US

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran says it is ready for unconditional prisoner swap talks with the United States because of fears that the coronavirus could put the lives of the prisoners at risk, Iranian media reported Sunday.

An Iranian news website, Khabaronline.ir, quoted Cabinet spokesman Ali Rabiei as saying there is a "readiness for all prisoners" to be discussed without condition.

"But the U.S. has refused to answer, so far," said Rabiei. "We hope that as the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease threatens the lives of Iranian citizens in the U.S. prisons, the U.S. government eventually will prefer lives to politics."

A senior U.S. official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "There has been no offer and no offer of direct talks."

Rabiei said Iran considers the U.S. government responsible for the health of the Iranian prisoners, adding that "it seems that the U.S. has more readiness to bring the situation to an end." Rabiei did not elaborate, but Iranian media in recent months said there are several Iranians in U.S. custody, including Sirous Asgari, a 60-year-old university professor.

Last week, U.S. officials said they were making progress in efforts to secure the release of a detained Navy veteran in Iran. But they were also pushing back on Iranian suggestions that a swap was in the works for the imprisoned Iranian professor. U.S. officials have been trying to deport Asgari since last year.

Ken Cuccinelli, the acting deputy Homeland Security secretary, said Wednesday that the cases of American detainee Michael White in Iran and Asgari have never been connected. He expressed frustration with recent comments from Iranian officials that there may be a link between the two and complained that Iran had been slow to accept Asgari's return.

White, of Imperial Beach, California, was detained in July 2018 while visiting a girlfriend in Iran. He was convicted of insulting Iran's supreme leader and posting private information online.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Froilan "Lang" Cruz Tenorio

BORN TO LIFE ON SEPT 9, 1939 – CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE BY OUR DEAR LORD ON MAY 4, 2020

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Albert Camacho Tenorio & †Rita Duenas Cruz
Brothers: †Juan Cruz Tenorio & †Tito Santos
In-Laws: †Joseph S. Kwiatkowski & †Mary C. Kwiatkowski
Sister-in-Law: †Dawn Osteen

His spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Grace Lynn K. Tenorio
Children: Dawn Marie T. Martos (Darian Shane T. Martos, Dylan Jarod T. Martos, Joyia Marie T. Martos, Zackary Darrick T. Martos), Laura Jean Tenorio-Fejeran and Matthew S. Fejeran (Tyler Lang Tenorio, Bryce John DLG Fejeran, Tiana Mahina Grace T. Flores, Brianna Jo T. Fejeran) & Gina Lynn T. and Jesse C. Torres (Peter Wesley Torres, III and Joseph Lang T. Torres)

Aunts: Ana Cruz Cruz & Maria Rios Cruz
Sisters: Francisca C. Tenorio & Dicta C. Tenorio
Brother: Aldebert & Celina A. Concepcion
Sisters-in-Law: Charlene D. Tenorio & Rosario S. Santos
Brothers-in-Law: Joseph and Barbara Kwiatkowski & Larry and Jo Anne Kwiatkowski
Reared Brothers: Jack Q. Castro & Greg Q. Castro

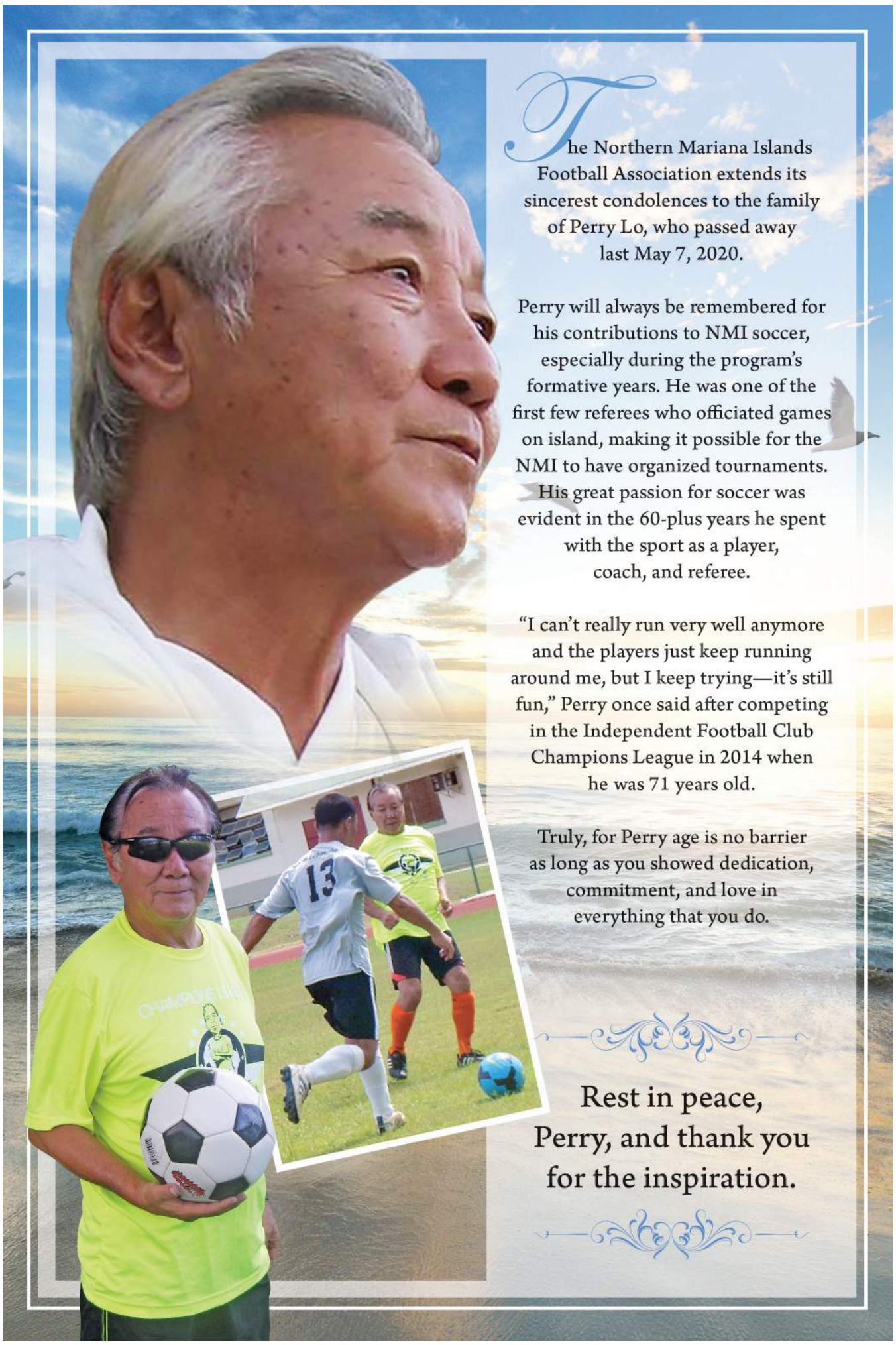
The Family of †Lang wishes to thank all of you who have expressed their condolences, comforting words and sentiments at this difficult time of their loss. Please know that your kind words will be forever remembered and you will always be in their prayers always.

The Family

Overdrive

(DREAMSTIME/TNS)
Taking the car out for a weekly drive can keep it in good shape during the coronavirus shelter-in-place period.

Motormouth: Keeping your car healthy while sheltering in place


The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association extends its sincerest condolences to the family of Perry Lo, who passed away last May 7, 2020.
Perry will always be remembered for his contributions to NMI soccer, especially during the program's formative years. He was one of the first few referees who officiated games on island, making it possible for the NMI to have organized tournaments. His great passion for soccer was evident in the 60-plus years he spent with the sport as a player, coach, and referee.
"I can't really run very well anymore and the players just keep running around me, but I keep trying—it's still fun," Perry once said after competing in the Independent Football Club Champions League in 2014 when he was 71 years old.
Truly, for Perry age is no barrier as long as you showed dedication, commitment, and love in everything that you do.
Rest in peace, Perry, and thank you for the inspiration.

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: Our cars have been sitting in the garage for long periods of time because of the coronavirus lockdown and because we're retired. When we do drive, it's usually short distances to stock up on groceries. What kind of mileage should we be putting on them to keep them running well?

Q: Now that many of us are stuck at home, we are also driving much less. Is there anything different we should be doing with our vehicles? I filled my car with gas about six weeks ago and the tank is still full.

Q: I've been staying home and only moving the car in and out of the garage. I had a dead battery this morning. I jumped it and took a half-hour drive, and all is well. You may want to remind readers.

A: There are several things we can do to keep out cars healthy while sheltering them in place. Connecting a smart battery charger will keep the battery up without the danger of overcharging it the way some old chargers did. A full tank of gas will be fine for probably six months. If you are the worrying type, pouring some fuel additive such as StaBil in the tank is like insurance.

Because I live in an exurb, I go for a drive once a week. Driving down a country road, I keep my social distance from others. Plus, gas is cheap. Pray for a quick end to all of this.

Q: First, I want to express my appreciation because Rides is the first section of my Sunday paper that I read. Second, it looks like a correction is needed on the tire tread test information that was posted in reply to B.K. from Emmaus, Pa. I didn't catch it myself. My brother did after I sent him a snapshot of your column. It should have said that 2/32 is equal to 1/16 of an inch, not 1/8. I looked at the Goodyear website and everything else checks out.

A: You and about a thousand other alert readers caught the error. Thank you all. I hope that I may claim to be a better writer than mathematician. That is my brother's specialty.

Q: Regarding B.K.'s question about tread depth, most tires have wear bars between the lines of tread. When the tread depth gets to an unsafe depth of 2/32 inch, the bar is the same thickness as the tread. With the financial climate we are in, keep your pennies in your pocket and read your tires.

A: You are right. The wear bars resemble bald spots (lines) across the tire tread. They are evenly spaced around the tire and arrows on the sidewall point to their locations. These tires are definitely due for replacement!

Q: In an auto review next to your column recently, it was noted that the 2020 Honda CR-V Hybrid has 232 pound-feet torque. Most car ads now carry that piece of information. Why? I have no idea what this means and assume many other people don't either.

A: Torque refers to the oomph that gets the car rolling. The more torque, the more neck snap factor you feel when accelerating from a stop. It is what you need to do a burnout and accelerate hard. Trucks often have high-torque diesel engines to get those heavy loads moving.

Life & Style

Jay-Z's Team Roc calls for fast action in Ahmaud Arbery case

ATLANTA (AP)—The social justice arm of Jay-Z's Roc Nation entertainment company on Sunday called on Georgia officials to take quick action in the case of Ahmaud Arbery, a black man who authorities say was killed by two white men as he ran through a Georgia neighborhood.

Musicians Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, Alicia Keys, Mario "Yo Gotti" Mims, Robert "Meek Mill" Williams and two attorneys signed Team Roc's open letter published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and directed at state officials.

The letter said District Attorney Tom Durden should be recused from the case due for a conflict of interest since Gregory McMichael, one of the two men charged with murder, was a former police officer. The letter urges state Attorney General Christopher Carr to instead appoint a special prosecutor to help achieve a fair trial. It also says a neighbor should be charged as an armed accomplice.

AP

People react during a rally to protest the shooting of an unarmed black man, Friday, May 8, 2020, in Brunswick Ga.

"We are all Ahmaud Arbery," rapper Yo Gotti said in a statement. "Everyday activities should not end in death sentences. We must hold people responsible for their actions. Ahmaud Arbery was unarmed and innocent and his killers must be brought to justice."

Arbery was fatally shot on Feb. 23 in Brunswick but no charges were brought for more than two months. National outrage over the case swelled last week after video surfaced that appeared to show the shooting. Shortly after the video's leak, Gregory McMichael, 64, and his son Travis McMichael, 34, were arrested and charged with murder and aggravated assault.

The father and son said they thought Arbery matched the appearance of a burglary suspect who they said had been recorded on a surveillance camera some time before.

Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper Jones, has said she thinks her 25-year-old son, a former high school football player, was just jogging in the neighborhood before he was killed.

"If anybody saw that horrifying video of his killing, it is heartbreaking, unbelievably unacceptable and inhumane," singer Alicia Keys said in a statement to The Associated Press. "No human being should be murdered and not receive justice. I have black sons and they should be able to go on a jog or anywhere they want without the risk of being killed."

Viral video sensation 'double rainbow guy' dies at 57

MARIPOSA, Calif. (AP)—Paul L. Vasquez, the burly mountain man whose awe-struck reaction upon seeing a double rainbow propelled him to internet stardom and turned him into a folk hero, has died in Central California. He was 57.

Vasquez, who called himself Yosemitebear on social media, died early Saturday at a hospital emergency room, the Mariposa County coroner's office told the Modesto Bee.

The cause of death has not been released. Vasquez had recently posted on his Facebook page that he had gone to get tested for COVID-19 but learned about another unspecified ailment.

In January 2010, Vasquez posted on YouTube a video shot from his mountainside house of a set of rainbows overlooking the Yosemite valley. He notes in the caption that the camera couldn't capture the rainbows' intensity and brightness.

But that wasn't what led to 46 million views of the video. It was Vasquez's reaction.

Over the course of the 3-minute video, he repeatedly said "whoa," laughed and even sobbed as he marveled at the sight of the rainbows.

"It's a double rainbow all the way across the sky!" he exclaimed.

He went on to ponder: "What does it all mean?"

The video went viral that summer after talk show host Jimmy Kimmel tweeted about it, and it led to appearances on a number of TV shows and commercials for Smartwater, Microsoft and Delta Air Lines.

"His 'Double Rainbow' basically wrote the book on what a viral video was," Vasquez's friend, Robert Borchard, told the Bee. He called Vasquez an "amazing character" who was always enthusiastic about the world.

Idris Elba lends his voice to a song helping relief efforts

NEW YORK (AP)—Idris Elba, who battled the coronavirus this year, has lent his voice to a new song about black men and mental health that will benefit pandemic relief efforts.

Elba is featured on the song "Kings" by Kosine, a singer-songwriter-producer best known for crafting hits for Big Sean, Nicki Minaj and Rihanna. Kosine, whose real name is Marcos Palacios, is one-half of the production duo Da Internz.

Elba delivers a spoken word performance on "Kings," which was released Friday.

"This song looks at mental health, mental enrichment. We should stay away from conspiracies as they are a collision of fear and ignorance, two factors that erode our mental health," Elba wrote on his Instagram page about "Kings."

The Golden Globe-winning actor has dipped his toe in music multiple times: He's released several EPs, performed as an DJ (even at Coachella) and co-produced a song on Jay-Z's 2007 album, "American Gangster." Elba also appeared on Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' sophomore album "This Unruly Mess I've Made," while audio from an Elba interview is featured on Taylor Swift's "London Boy," a song from her latest album "Lover."

Kosine, who worked on songs for Nas, Ella Mai, John Legend and Ludacris, said a portion of the proceeds from "Kings" will benefit the MusiCares COVID-19 Relief Fund.

CBS reimagines 'Equalizer' and 'The Silence of the Lambs'

NEW YORK (AP)—Queen Latifah, Rebecca Breeds and Thomas Middleditch are set to star in three new CBS shows for the 2020-21 season as the network adds a reimagined "Equalizer," a show based on "The Silence of the Lambs" and a comedy about organ donation.

Queen Latifah steps into the role of a retired special-ops agent who fiercely believes in justice in "Equalizer," playing a character previously portrayed on TV and film by Edward Woodward and Denzel Washington.

Breeds, of "Pretty Little Liars" fame, will play FBI Agent Clarice Starling in "Clarice" as she returns to the field in 1993, six months after the events of "The Silence of the Lambs." Chris Noth and Lorraine Toussaint also star.

Middleditch of "Silicon Valley" teams up with Broadway veteran Annaleigh Ashford from "Masters of Sex" for the comedy "B Positive," by creators Chuck Lorre and Marco Pennette. The show is about a newly divorced dad who finds a kidney donor in a woman from his past.

Late wife's best friend stiff-arms man's interest

DEAR ABBY: My wife passed away, and I have fallen in love with her best friend. She feels she would be disrespecting my wife's name if she went out with me. How can I let her know my wife would not object to us dating?

I don't know how to get her to understand my vows to my wife have been fulfilled with her passing. I will never forget her, and she will always be in my heart. But I feel I have room in my heart for this woman. She is a great person, and at some point I would like to have her as my wife. Advice, please?

GOING FORWARD IN TEXAS

DEAR GOING: You have stated your points both succinctly and pragmatically. It's understandable that you would be drawn to her, considering the close relationship you already had, I assume for many years. If you have told this lady what you have written to me as plainly as you stated it in your letter, and her feelings remain unchanged, it is possible that she is not as attracted to you as you are to her. And, if that's the case, she should say so in plain English so you can look elsewhere.

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I got engaged a few months ago and have been getting mixed messages from our parents about our wedding next year. Overall, they seem happy for us, but they don't show much interest in our relationship, or the wedding either.

Since we are gay, we are unsure whose, if any, parents we should ask to help us pay for the wedding. My fiance's parents are very conservative and most likely wouldn't volunteer to contribute. My parents are likely the only ones who would help, but they haven't made any offers.

We both have full-time jobs, but they are middle to low income, so help would be appreciated. Part of me resents them for not offering any help since their parents pitched in for their festivities and because they will undoubtedly expect invitations. Any advice you can give would be appreciated.

MARRYING IN THE WEST

DEAR MARRYING: Welcome to the world of gay weddings, a subject that has cropped up since 2015, when it was legalized in all 50 states. There are no hard and fast rules covering this. Modern couples, both straight and gay, often pay for their own weddings to the extent their budgets allow.

While you and your fiance might raise the subject of pitching in with your parents, in the interest of family harmony, please try not to do it with prior resentments or expectations. Whether they agree or decline, you will be fine, and your day will be special.

DEAR ABBY: I was invited to a baby shower. Because of the virus that's going around, many people weren't planning on going, so they canceled the party. Should I still take them the gift I bought for their baby? Or should I just forget it because they canceled the baby shower?

BEARING A GIFT IN NEW MEXICO

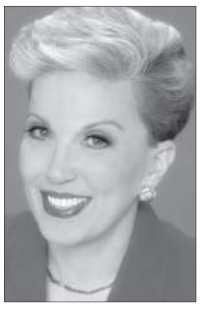
DEAR BEARING A GIFT: Do not "just forget it." The kind —and generous—way to handle it would be to give the mother-to-be the gift, remembering that, in spite of the shower being canceled, she will need things for her baby.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

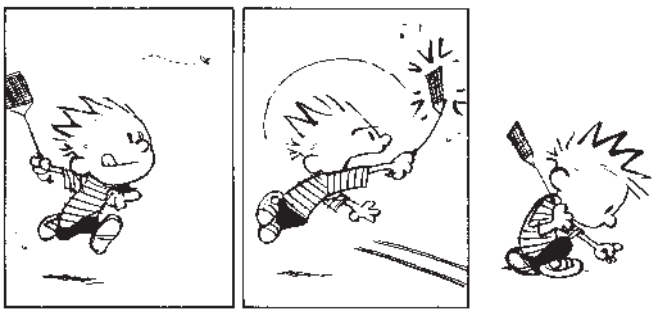


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

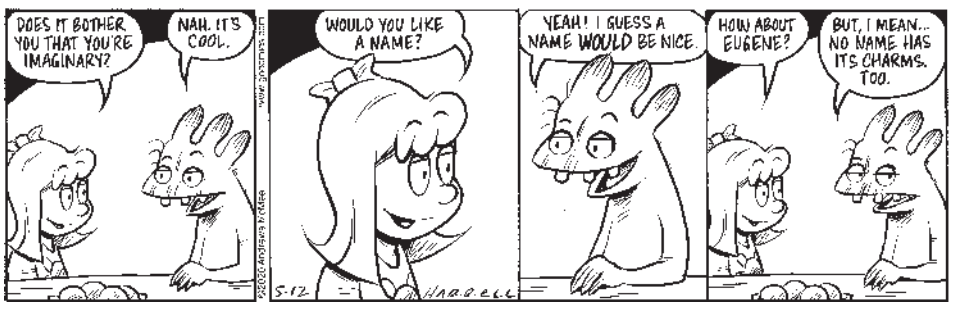


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DOES IT BOTHER YOU THAT YOU'RE IMAGINARY?
NAH. IT'S COOL.
WOULD YOU LIKE A NAME?
YEAH! I GUESS A NAME WOULD BE NICE.
HOW ABOUT EUGENE?
BUT, I MEAN... NO NAME HAS ITS CHARMS, TOO.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IT'S GOOD TO BE AT A BASEBALL GAME AGAIN, EVEN IF IT'S NOT THE MAJORS.
YEAH, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY STOLEN BASES IN ONE GAME.
WELL, IT'S HARD TO TAG SOMEONE OUT WHEN YOU HAVE TO STAY 6 FEET AWAY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

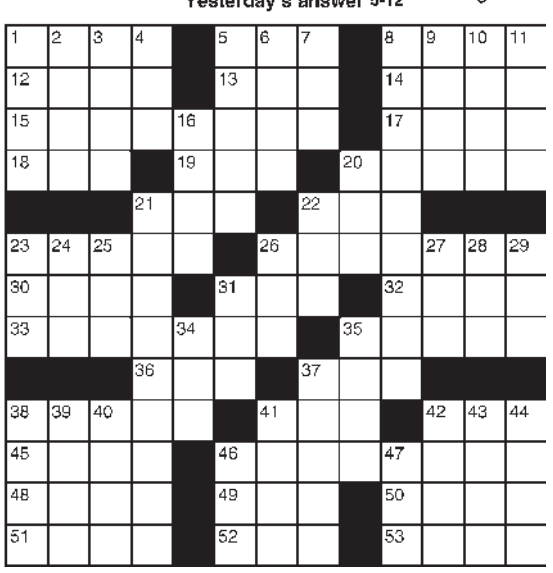
ACROSS
1 Blanchett of "Elizabeth"
5 Blue
8 Balkan native
12 Genesis shepherd
13 Farm female
14 Irene of "Fame"
15 Surgical knives
17 Unsigned (Abbr.)
18 Chiding sound
19 Approves
20 Cabbage salads
21 "Mayday!"
22 Ripken of baseball
23 "What's the —?"
26 Unease
30 "Downton Abbey" countess
31 ISP choice
32 Elevator name
33 Small songbird
35 Ryan or Tatum
36 Vinyl records
37 ICU hookups
38 Scout unit
41 Madrid Mrs.
42 Resort
45 Seniors' org.
46 Rascal
48 Stratagem
49 "Dig in!"
50 Homer's son
51 Trudge
52 Lincoln nickname
53 Iowa city

DOWN
1 Group of actors
2 Grade-school basics
3 Ship wood
4 Right angle
5 Vichyssoise veggies
6 They give a hoot
7 Director Craven
8 Green onions
9 Actress Turner
10 In — (lined up)
11 Moving vehicles?
16 Milne bruin
20 Jazz combo instrument
21 Like some potatoes
22 Anderson Cooper's channel
23 Includes in an email
24 Fine, at NASA
25 Attempt
26 Request
27 Montreal summer
28 — Maria (coffee liqueur)
29 Designer monogram
31 Doubtfire or Dalloway
34 PC program
35 Track shape
37 Hopping mad
38 Rain-delay cover
39 "The Addams Family" actor Julia
40 Roughly
41 Wound cover
42 Did laps
43 Use a fruit knife
44 Literary reps
46 Yacht spot
47 Lawyers' org.

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	V	U			A	R	C		C	R	J	E
L	I	S	T		C	E	A		C	O	Z	E
A	C	E	R		O	A	R		V	E	I	L
G	I	D	E	N		_	O	G	E			
			N	A	B		B	A	R	T	A	B
N	F	W	D	F	A			.	I	A	M	A
A	_	E	S		H	E	R		E	R	O	S
R	I	L	E	D		G	U	I	T	A	R	S
C	E	L	T	I	C		M	A	T			
			I	E	H	M		N	E	V	E	H
L	Y	N	E		E	A	R		R	A	C	E
S	E	A	R		A	_	I		S	L	O	E
U	S	P	S		M	_	3			C	N	D

Yesterday's answer 5-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emily VanCamp, 34; Domhnall Gleeson, 37; Tony Hawk, 52; Ving Rhames, 61.

Happy Birthday: Don't sit back when you should be moving forward. Embrace change, and you'll have better control over the outcome. Gather information, and learn as you move into unfamiliar territory. Expand your mind, and be part of the solution. How you conduct your life will influence the way others view you. Stand tall, and do what's right. Be a leader, not a follower. Your numbers are 1, 8, 21, 29, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Size up your situation, and consider the best way to navigate your way through life. Listen carefully, and do your best to accommodate when necessary. Do what you need to do, and keep moving forward. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Check into what's available, and head in that direction. Times are changing, and it's essential to keep up. Jump in and participate. Use your wisdom and experience, and offer hands-on help. Forward-thinking and open-mindedness will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Pump it up and get moving. Discipline, coupled with a fitness routine, will get you in tip-top shape. The physical changes you make will boost your morale and drive to pursue your goals. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take hold of situations that can affect you financially, contractually or medically. A change may not be welcome, but it will be right for you. Be receptive to suggestions, and don't be afraid to ask for what you want. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Put more thought into how you look, how much you spend and how you deal with debt. You may desire change, but for now, you are best to observe. Refrain from making a rash decision and trusting someone you shouldn't. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Temptation is apparent. Consider every angle of a situation before you take part. A cautious approach will help you avoid an argument with someone who doesn't play fair. Explore possibilities that don't require working alongside others. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Distance yourself from anyone who is asking for too much or is involved in something that isn't in your best interest. Personal improvement, growth and surrounding yourself with those who bring out the best in you are favored. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep a close watch over your possessions, personal papers and passwords. Look for an opportunity or investment that will encourage financial growth and greater security. Stay alert, be observant and concentrate on better health and a more sophisticated look. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A steady pace, a reserved attitude and putting in the time required to get things done will help you reach your objective. Don't meddle or let anything distract you. Look at facts, be honest with yourself and make positive adjustments. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't rely on others. If there is something you want to do, take on the task yourself. Being industrious will pay off and impress everyone around you. A change at home will encourage better relationships with neighbors, friends and family. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Keep your thoughts and plans to yourself. Delegate more time to the things that will benefit you personally. Physical fitness, a healthier lifestyle and a meaningful relationship will bring the highest returns. Romance and home improvements are favored. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get involved in something that matters to you. Volunteering your time and using your skills to help someone in need will change the way you do things moving forward. Protect your health and your reputation when dealing with unfamiliar people. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are responsible, confident and inventive. You are dynamic and proactive.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5					1	7		8
4	9		2		5		1	3
7	4			9			8	
2								1
	8			4			2	9
9	1		7		6		4	5
6			1	2				7

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	3	6	2	9	4	8	5	1
4	1	9	8	6	5	3	2	7
5	2	8	1	7	3	6	4	9
9	8	7	6	4	2	1	3	5
2	6	1	3	5	8	7	9	4
3	4	5	7	1	9	2	8	6
1	9	3	4	2	6	5	7	8
6	5	2	9	8	7	4	1	3
8	7	4	5	3	1	9	6	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

OSCARS 2020 Solution: 12 letters

E	Y	D	U	J	N	K	E	Y	A	H	A	N	K	S
L	K	P	O	R	T	M	A	N	N	O	S	R	A	L
T	I	H	Y	N	T	R	E	T	R	O	P	E	L	I
O	N	B	A	E	I	S	N	I	K	A	E	D	I	N
N	G	R	D	D	P	P	P	E	R	N	T	O	N	Y
O	E	I	R	R	N	A	U	A	I	Y	S	O	G	Y
W	N	E	E	O	E	E	S	A	P	B	E	W	A	R
N	A	I	T	C	E	I	G	H	T	L	I	Y	D	O
I	M	L	S	N	T	A	O	A	O	O	R	L	C	T
J	T	I	E	E	E	E	Ⓔ	J	I	D	A	L	L	S
N	E	S	Y	M	N	Ⓥ	O	D	O	R	R	O	F	Y
A	K	H	E	I	Ⓘ	J	E	V	R	K	R	H	I	O
H	C	V	X	Ⓛ	N	O	N	S	I	O	E	A	L	T
B	O	N	G	J	O	O	N	H	O	R	F	R	M	D
L	R	E	G	E	W	L	L	E	Z	W	E	I	S	S

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Billy, Bong Joon-ho, Brie, Corden, Deakins, Dern, Dolby, Eilish, Elton, Erivo, Ferrari, Films, Ford, Gad, Han Jin-won, Hanks, Hayek, Hollywood, John, Jojo, Joker, Judy, Kaling, King, Larson, Live, Love Me Again, Marriage, Nineteen, Parasite, Phoenix, Pitt, Porter, Portman, Ripa, Rocketman, Seventeen, Taupin, Toy Story, Weiss, Yesterday, Zellweger

Yesterday's Answer: Staycation

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Pippen defends controversial move

NEW YORK—In the final seconds of Game 3 of the 1994 Eastern Conference Finals, Scottie Pippen did something most stars wouldn't ever think of.

He pulled himself out of the game ahead of the final shot out of spite.

That moment was featured during Episode 7 of "The Last Dance" on Sunday night on ESPN. And while he wasn't necessarily happy about his decision looking back on it, Pippen stands by that move.

"I wish it never happened, but if I had a chance to do it over again, I probably wouldn't change it," Pippen said in the documentary.

The Chicago Bulls were tied with the New York Knicks in Game 3 of the playoff series that year with less than two seconds left on the clock. Bulls coach Phil Jackson had called a timeout and was drawing up the final play.

Jackson, instead of giving Pippen the nod, looked for European rookie Toni Kukoc. He had a play drawn up that Kukoc had scored on before and pulled the trigger. Pippen was supposed to inbound the ball instead.

"I felt like it was an insult, coming from Phil," Pippen said in the documentary. "I was the most dangerous guy on our team, so why you asking me to take the ball out?"

So, Pippen decided he wasn't going into the game for the final play.

While the move was stunning, even to this day, Jackson didn't think much about it in the moment.

"Phil said, 'F--- him,'" Steve Kerr said in the documentary.

Jackson's call worked, too. Kukoc drilled the winning bucket, leading the Bulls past the Knicks, 104-102. The emotions in Chicago's locker room after the fact, however, were anything but happy. Even Jordan, who was watching from afar after his retirement and move to baseball, was upset with Pippen.

There were emotional speeches and tears all around.

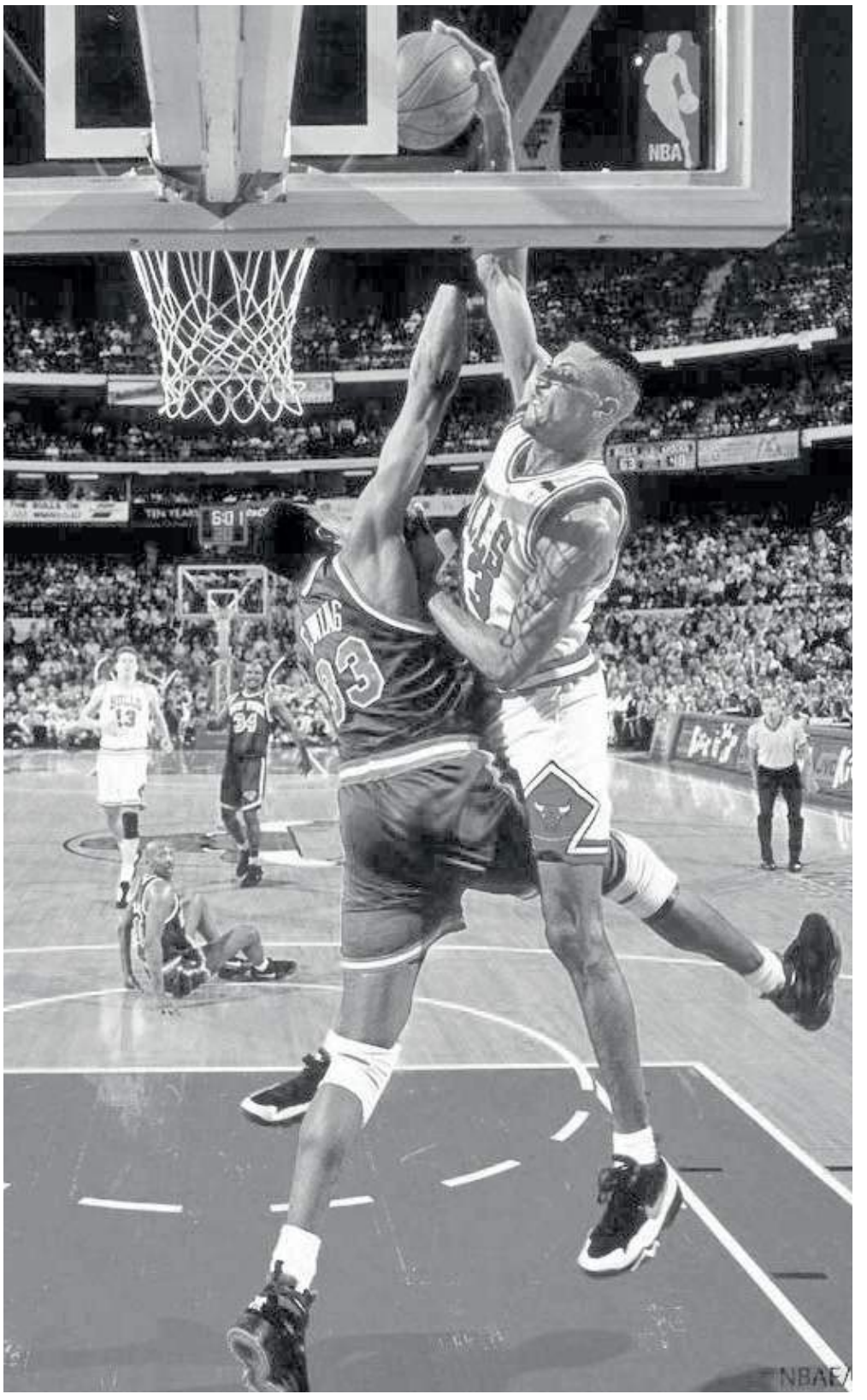
"I was obviously happy for making the shot, but the whole situation even going toward the locker room everybody was pissed that everything was not right," Kukoc said in the documentary.

The Bulls lost that series in seven games, snapping their streak of three NBA championships.

The decision to sit out didn't end up hurting Pippen much in the long run, either.

Still, though, that move isn't something basketball fans are ever going to forget—or allow Pippen to forget.

"It's always going to come back to haunt him at some point in some conversation," Jordan said in the documentary. "Pippen knows better than that."



AP

In this May 20, 1994 file photo, Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen dunks over New York Knicks' Patrick Ewing during Game 6 of the Eastern Conference Finals in Chicago.

Jordan vs Payton

The eighth episode of ESPN's "The Last Dance" ended Sunday with a breakdown of the Chicago Bulls' victory over the Seattle Supersonics in the 1996 NBA Finals.

As you could imagine, that meant a lot of talk from Jordan and Gary Payton. What very few people saw coming, though, was the birth of a new meme. And another reminder that not even other people's interviews are safe from Jordan's ruthlessness.

The fun started with Payton talking about his defense against Jordan, and how he wished it didn't take going down 3-0 in the Finals to convince coach George Karl to let him take over guarding Jordan.

As Payton told it, the key was getting physical with Jordan, not unlike the tactics of the "Bad Boys" Pistons from a few episodes ago. Unfortunately, what Payton may not have realized is that the documentary producers would give Jordan a tablet with the video of his explanation.

What ensued was one of the most dismissive laughs you will ever see, as Jordan basically acted like a super villain hearing the plot to bring him down. Except this super villain ended up winning.

"The Glove. I had no problem with The Glove," Jordan said after the laughs. "I had no problem with Gary Payton. I had a lot of other things on my mind."

Retirement

Jordan's first retirement in 1993 was a shock to society and that was not lost on Phil when it was about to happen.

The story is told in Episode 7 of "The Last Dance." Bulls chairman Jerry Reinsdorf first found out when Jordan's agent, David Falk told him of the news at a charity dinner that was sponsored by Jordan.

"At that time, we were coming off of three championships," Jordan said in the documentary. "I fulfilled my responsibility to the city, to the Bulls, to my teammates."

Reinsdorf said he did not try to talk Jordan out of retiring, but he insisted Jordan talk to Phil Jackson before making a final decision. That meeting took place in Reinsdorf's office in the Berto Center in Deerfield.

"I told Phil, I said 'Look, I'm about here. I'm about done. I have no more challenges. I have no motivation,'" Jordan said. "I was done."

What Jackson told Jordan was a perfect representation of the type of coach Jackson was and why Jordan liked playing for him so much.

"This was a young man who had gone through some heartrending things," Jackson said referring to the recent death of Jordan's father. "You're denying a gift to society, but I understand, you know, I understand

From No. 23 to 45 and back

Jordan and the No. 23 are synonymous, but he famously wore No. 45 when he returned from his first retirement in 1995.

When he retired in 1993, Jordan talked about how meaningful it was that his father saw him play his last game. Jordan's father died in August of 1993.

Jordan talked about why he wore No. 45 when he returned in the spring of 1995 in Episode 8 of "The Last Dance."

"I didn't want to wear 23 because I knew my father wasn't there to watch me and I felt it was a new beginning and 45 was my first number when I was playing in high school," Jordan said.

Things changed when the Bulls faced the Orlando Magic in the 1995 playoffs. The Bulls lost Game 1 in Orlando in the Eastern Conference semifinals with Jordan making two turnovers in the final minute of a close game.

"After the game Nick Anderson said '45 isn't 23,'" Horace Grant said on the documentary. "Oh man (while rolling his eyes)."

Jordan came out with No. 23 on for Game 2 and the Bulls won in Orlando.

"I just felt like 45 wasn't natural," Jordan said. "I wanted to go back with the feeling I had with 23." ***(NBC/AP)***

Zion asked to admit taking extra benefits with Duke

NORTH CAROLINA—Zion Williamson remains the poster child for attending college. He arrived at Duke with nearly 1 million Twitter followers and left Durham a transcendent star. Zion became a one-name brand by toe-touching campus for a few months, helping him sign a rookie-record $75 million shoe deal with Nike after leaving.

But the Zion experience at Duke is potentially being reframed through a legal tiff that spilled out some compelling public documents on Sunday.

A legal filing in Florida from Williamson's former marketing representative repeatedly alleges that Williamson's family courted and received extra benefits for his time at Duke, according to a Request for Admission in Dade County (Florida). This is the third time a legal case has intimated that Williamson or his family broke NCAA rules and attempted to seek money to profit off his fame as an amateur.

What does it all mean? To think there will be depositions, admissions and notices of allegations from all this is naïve. There's too much cross-interest between the powerful intertwined parties—Duke, Nike, CAA and Williamson. That's far too many image-conscious organizations with mutual interest to not figure out a way to write a check to make things go away. (Just like USC and Reggie Bush, who resisted the easiest solution for far too long with legal issues from aggrieved parties in his college years.)

If Williamson had come along a few years later, he and his family wouldn't have had to jump through so many hoops to profit off his Name, Image and Likeness. NCAA legislation being pushed forward in the past month is expected to allow athletes like Williamson to monetize their brand in 2021.

But there's an interesting lesson in all this for the Pollyannas who've been waiting for this NIL moment for years. Just because the black market comes above ground and money can move above board in the amateur ranks doesn't mean that space still won't be a mess. More than likely, there will be plenty of cautionary tales to follow. They'll just look different than this one, as high-stakes decisions will be made earlier. Some will work out. Others won't. Rest assured, there will be lawsuits like this one, with broken contracts and hard feelings.

NIL is a great step forward for college athletics, and it's decades overdue. But it won't come without a lot of unintended consequences, attempted manipulations and the type of chicanery that became institutionalized in the grassroots world. ***(NBC)***

Chiefs among centerpieces of NFL slate

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—In the makeshift interview room just outside Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, defensive tackle Chris Jones yelled across to Chiefs teammate Frank Clark, vowing that the Super Bowl championship they had just won would not be the last.

Their road to a repeat will begin at home.

And there will be plenty of opportunities for football fans across the country to keep tabs on their progress.

An organization that was merely an afterthought less than a decade ago is now one of the centerpieces of the NFL schedule, which was released Thursday night with plenty of fanfare and even more hope that it will actually be played. The Chiefs will celebrate their first championship in five decades by getting a Thursday night match-up with the Houston Texans, who have quickly become one of their new-look rivals, to officially kick off the 2020 season.

It doesn't stop there, though. The Chiefs have the maximum allotment of five prime-time games for the second consecutive season, and the front end of their schedule is particularly tough, with three of their first four games against division champs.

"We have the opportunity to compete against some of the great teams in this league," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said in a statement. "I know our organization and fans get excited for these challenges. We look forward to raising last year's Super Bowl championship banner and all that comes with defending our title in the 2020 season."

The game against Houston holds some serious cache if only because it's another showdown between the Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes and Texans counterpart Deshaun Watson. It also will be the first chance for the Texans to avenge an embarrassing playoff meltdown, when they squandered a 24-0 lead in an eventual 51-31 loss last season.

After visiting the Chargers, the Chiefs head back across the country for what could be the marquee game of the entire NFL season: Chiefs vs. Ravens, the game that most fans expected—and probably wanted—for last year's AFC title game.

It's a match-up of the 2018 league MVP in Mahomes and the 2019 MVP in Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson—the league's best arm and arguably best legs. The two teams played early last season in a game won by the Chiefs, and they combined for nearly 1,000 yards and 60 first downs in precisely the kind of shootout one would expect.

The Chiefs return home to face the Patriots, who are now plunging into life post-Tom Brady, and have a Thursday night game at Buffalo and a Sunday showdown with the Panthers in a pair of games likely to draw plenty of viewers.

If not, they'll certainly tune in Week 12 and Week 15.

The first date is the Chiefs' trip to Tampa Bay, which not only has Brady and unretired tight end Rob Gronwkowski but electrifying playmakers Chris Godwin and Mike Evans. The second date is a potential Super Bowl match-up in New Orleans, which also happens to be the first time Mahomes and the Saints' Drew Brees will square off against each other.

"Any time you get a chance to play against some of the greatest players to play the game, I always look at that as a great challenge," Chiefs safety Tyrann Mathieu said after the schedules were released.

Mathieu has been among Chiefs players who have been pointing toward a repeat. The organization signed just about every free agent following its Super Bowl triumph, and it added a couple of helpful pieces—notably first-round pick Clyde Edwards-Helaire, a running back perfect for its scheme—during the draft.

"You know you're going to get the best effort and the best change-up from every single team," Mahomes said, "so for us, we've seen what the other teams in our division have been doing, and we understand that they're trying to come out there and compete against us and try to take the crown from us. So it's about us getting better within ourselves so we can go out there and play our best football when it comes down to it."

AP

In this Feb. 2, 2020 file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, left, tries to get away from San Francisco 49ers' Dee Ford, center, and DeForest Buckner during the NFL Super Bowl LIV in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Wentz focused on something bigger

Meanwhile, injuries forced Carson Wentz to watch another quarterback lead the Philadelphia Eagles to their first Super Bowl title and put him on the sideline for playoff games in each of the next two seasons.

Now the franchise player with the big contract saw his team use a second-round pick on a quarterback who was runner-up for the Heisman Trophy last year.

The Eagles didn't draft Jalen Hurts to compete with Wentz, only to provide insurance. That hasn't stopped some media and fans from creating a quarterback controversy and interpreting the pick as a slight against Wentz.

Constant scrutiny and intense criticism are part of the job for NFL quarterbacks. In Philly, it's loud and consistent.

But Wentz blocks it out. He doesn't break. He won't allow disappointment, frustration or setbacks to bring him down. Nor does he let success -- he finished third in NFL MVP voting in 2017 and signed a contract extension with $108 million guaranteed last summer—inflate his ego.

The reason is his strong Christian faith.

"It can be easy to get consumed with your worldly, fleshly train of thought or desires or whatever," Wentz explained in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press this week. "But when you look at everything from an internal perspective, from a Biblical perspective, and just know that this is so much bigger than just me and my life or where I'm at in my career, football, it's so much bigger."

49ers hope roster stability pays dividends

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—For all the focus on the big names that left San Francisco this offseason like longtime left tackle Joe Staley and defensive anchor DeForest Buckner, the reality is the 49ers will look much the same in 2020.

The defending NFC champion Niners are returning 18 of 22 starters from a team that fell one quarter short of winning it all, the type of continuity that could be especially crucial during this virtual offseason.

While many teams are trying to install new systems or get several new players up to speed while teams are spread out around the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 49ers are mostly intact.

"The continuity obviously is for sure an advantage," linebacker Fred Warner said this week. "There's a lot of turnover every year in the NFL because that's just the nature of the business. Us having a lot of the same people in the building this year will be good for us, having that chemistry and being familiar with one another."

The 49ers' ability to bring back so many key pieces began even before last season ended when defensive coordinator Robert Saleh was beaten out for the head coaching in Cleveland by Kevin Stefanski, ensuring that San Francisco wouldn't have to replace a coordinator.

The biggest loss happened at the start of the league's business season when Buckner was traded to Indianapolis for a first-round pick, leaving a void in the middle of the defensive line.

But that deal also enabled general manager John Lynch to retain two other key defensive starters in lineman Arik Armstead and safety Jimmie Ward.

Receiver Emmanuel Sanders left for New Orleans early in free agency and right guard Mike Person was released, but every other starter is set to return, which is paying dividends already.

"It's really important to have that continuity right now in these times because having everything the same for the veteran guys, the guys that have been part of the offense, defense, the special teams last year, all those installs are going to be the same or mostly the same," left guard Laken Tomlinson said. "Coaches can really focus on coaching the rookies coming in and making sure they're on the same page. The veterans can help with the learning process in that sense. Just having the majority of the team coming back, I think is going to be a winning edge for this team in this phase."

The 49ers hope that kind of continuity can help them avoid the trap that has befallen so many other Super Bowl runners-up over the years.

Only three teams have bounced back from the disappointment of a loss in the title game to win it all the following year, with Dallas and Miami doing it in back-to-back seasons in 1971-72 and the New England Patriots in 2018.

Eight other Super Bowl losers returned to the game the next season only to lose again, including Buffalo three times. But 15 of the past 33 teams that lost in the Super Bowl failed to even make it back to the playoffs the following year, including the Los Angeles Rams this past season.

While many of those teams lost more pieces than the Niners, the ones that did leave San Francisco were big ones. Buckner was the leader of the team's top position unit at defensive line with his relentless play.

Jordan at White Sox spring training 'was a freak show'

CHICAGO (AP) — There was no media circus like a Michael Jordan media circus.

And when it came to spring training in 1994, it was something like the White Sox had never seen.

Jordan made the shocking decision to leave his life as the greatest basketball player in the world to try to reach the majors as a pro baseball player. He joined up with the White Sox, turning down at least one direct path to the major leagues with another team, and reported to spring training in Sarasota, Florida.

"It was a freak show," White Sox legend Frank Thomas told our Chuck Garfien on the White Sox Talk Podcast. "It was exciting for the team because we had so many people watching the games every day and so much fanfare, but it was a little crazy. It wasn't a typical spring training. There were a lot of eyes on the White Sox that spring."

"A spring training like you could never imagine," former White Sox outfielder Mike Huff said. "Think about how many times you go to a spring training for Major League Baseball and you have Ted Koppel and 'Nightline' showing up to ask questions about a teammate of yours. It's just mind-boggling."

There probably should have been eyes on the White Sox anyway. In 1993, they won 94 games and reached the ALCS, losing in six games to the eventual world champion Toronto Blue Jays. Thomas was the reigning AL MVP.

But none of that compared to Jordan crashing the party.

"It was crazy. I'd never seen so much media in spring training ever," Thomas said. "We had as much media as they do at the World Series. That's how crazy it was. The first week he was there, I've never seen so many cameras and people trying to get stories about Michael Jordan playing baseball.

"It was a little distracting because people wanted to know whether Michael was going to make the team or not. And it was just one of those situations where we had a great team. And we knew he wasn't going to make the team because you can't just wake up and say, 'I want to make it to the big leagues.' But he came out and worked hard and really gave it his all. But after seeing him for a couple weeks, we knew he wasn't going to make the big league roster."

And it didn't stop.

"I'd been playing baseball quite a while by then, and I had no idea of the effect, the power of Michael Jordan would have not only on the team, but on everybody around us," former White Sox outfielder and current radio broadcaster Darrin Jackson said. "Anywhere we went, it became a frenzy of 'Michael's here! Michael's here!' I'm walking next to Frank Thomas, they didn't even see him, and he was the reigning MVP of the American League.

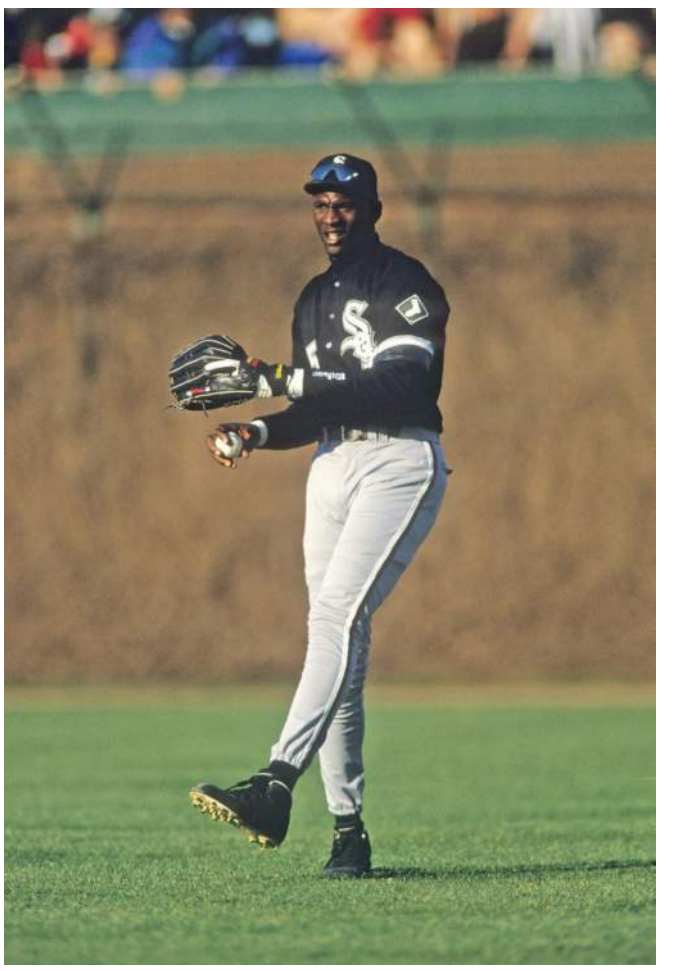
"It was kind of surreal, to be honest with you, because there were times where if we went somewhere during spring training, if Michael got off the bus, I literally saw there were women there waiting, crowds waiting, and they would be crying as Michael went by.

"I hadn't seen anything like it. This was powerful stuff."

MJ motivation

Two-sport pro athletes are a rarity.

So it only makes sense that when Jordan walked away from his life as the world's greatest basketball player in pursuit of a career in pro baseball, he looked to two of the few who had done it for inspiration.



AP

In this Feb. 15, 1994 file photo, Chicago White Sox's Michael Jordan participates in a training camp in Sarasota, Fla.

Both Bo Jackson and Deion Sanders managed to succeed at NFL football and Major League Baseball. Jackson's major league career lasted from 1986 to 1994, including time with the White Sox. Simultaneously, he played four seasons with the Los Angeles Raiders, from 1987 to 1990. Sanders played in the NFL from 1989 to 2005, concurrently logging parts of nine seasons in the big leagues.

When Jordan showed up to spring training with the White Sox in 1994, he gave those two guys a shoutout.

"Well, I got this whole idea from Bo, from Deion, the guys who made that transition to play two sports," he said. "I always wanted to play baseball, and I kicked myself for not playing in college when I had an opportunity to play in college. I was just hoping I'd get that opportunity again, and I have.

"They gave me the motivation to at least try it. I've seen the hard work that Bo's gone through with his hip (injury) and successful achievement that he's gotten overcoming that hip (injury). I worked with Herm (Schneider, White Sox trainer), who really worked with Bo, and he's really gotten me into tip-top shape to at least try it and learn. So I feel like I'm right on schedule with that, physically."

PEREZ

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when he joined TanHoldings' training session in 2015.

His father, Jon, even remembered how Nathan had a booboo in his first stint with TanHoldings.

"We signed him up for the U6 grassroots team. When the game started, he was able to get the ball and went on to dribble toward their goalie and unloaded a shot," Jon said.

From his rookie blunder, Nathan blossomed to become a dependable player for TanHoldings, both on offense and defense. His above-average skills then allowed him to have minimal adjustments when he suited up for his new team in Canada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former TanHoldings Football Club player Nathan Perez, front row second left, celebrates with his Hollandia Soccer Club teammates and coaches after winning the Saskatoon United Soccer Club Tournament in Canada.

"His coaches like how he keeps his focus and composure in the game. He does not let the loud crowd affects his game," Jon said.

The older Perez added that Nathan is one of the smallest players in the league and he defends players who are way much taller that him.

"But what he lacks in height, he makes up for his speed. His coaches and even the parents of his teammates often tell us how fast Nathan is, chasing the player way ahead of him and stealing the ball," Jon said.

Nathan's quick pace, good footwork, and great stamina are products of his consistent training under TanHoldings and NMIFA's grassroots program, added his father.

"He had a great foundation that's why he continues to play well," Jon said.

Meanwhile, with social distancing also in effect in Canada and schools and gyms closed, Nathan has decided to train on his own and prepare for the resumption of matches in their league. His parents bought cones and goal for home use, while he also practices at the school field across their house.

"I want to keep improving my skills and stay active while games are suspended and we can't go back to school yet," said Nathan, who looks up to FC Barcelona star and six-time FIFA Player of the Year Lionel Messi.

GAMES

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gold-medal winning squad, giving up only one run when he pitched against Guam in the finals. Jones and company came from behind to rule the competition, as they had to slip past New Caledonia, 11-5, and Palau, 8-0, in the playoffs to arrange a finals duel against Guam. Jones closed out for the CNMI in those last three games and left a mark in the Pacific Games after working the mound in 31 innings, yielding less than 10 hits, and posting more than 30 strikeouts.

Joining Jones on the gold medal team were Eric Tenorio, Ian Rogolifoi, Keoni Lizama, Mike Iguel, Vince Cepeda, Tyrone Omar, Franco Flores, Thomas Joab, Jerome Delos Santos, Byron Kaipat, Manny Sablan, Craig Sanchez, Elton Santos, and Juan Maratita.

Meanwhile, though baseball won't be affected by the date changes, SBL said other sports that will also compete in the 2022 Micronesian Games may have issues with the proposed new Mini Games schedule. The 2022 Micro Games is to take place from July 10 to Aug. 6, according to the Marshall Islands' winning bid.

Athletics, basketball, volleyball (beach and indoor), fast-pitch softball, lawn tennis, Micro All-Around, spear fishing, swimming, table tennis, and va'a are the proposed sports for the Micro Games, while besides baseball, the Mini Games will feature five other events—beach athletics, triathlon, beach volleyball, golf, and badminton. Lawn tennis and weightlifting are also being considered for the Mini Games 2022.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this September 2011 file photo, the CNMI's Manny Sablan waits for a pitch, while Tyrone Omar prepares to run from third base during their game against American Samoa in the Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

Pippen defends controversial move

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Chiefs among centerpieces of NFL slate

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Baseball OK with '22 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League welcomes the proposed new schedule for the CNMI-hosted Pacific Mini Games.

SBL official Rose Igitol said they see no conflict with the suggested new date (summer of 2022) for the quadrennial competition since baseball is not included on the sports program for the next Micronesian Games that will also take place in 2022 in the Marshall Islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joshua Jones, seen here pitching for the University of West Alabama in the NCAA Division II, led the CNMI in its gold medal win in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

The CNMI Pacific Mini Games Oversight Committee proposed the new date in response to the Pacific Games Council's request to consider making changes in the schedule to avoid clashing with the Tokyo Olympic Games. Initially, the Mini Games was to be held next year, while the Tokyo Olympics was originally slated for this August before it was moved to 2021 (July 23 to Aug. 8, 2021) due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It (new date) will not affect baseball at all. We will participate in the Mini Games in 2022," said Igitol.

The last time the CNMI fielded a baseball team in the Pacific Games Council-sanctioned event, the Commonwealth brought home a gold medal. The Tony Rogolifoi-managed squad topped the 2011 Pacific Games held in New Caledonia after beating rival Guam in the finals, 8-4.

Northern Mariana Sports Association Male Athlete of the Year Joshua Jones led the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players and officials of the CNMI National Baseball Team pose for a photo before playing against Guam in the finals of the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Former TanHoldings Football Club player Nathan Perez, right, steps in on defense to deflect a shot from their opponent during a tournament in Canada.

Strong foundation gives Perez edge

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former TanHoldings Football Club player Nathan Perez is doing well with his new team and thanked his former squad and the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association for providing him with strong and sound fundamentals in the sport.

Perez, who was a member of TanHoldings' U10 team in the NMIFA Youth League, is now playing for the Hollandia Soccer Club in Saskatoon, Canada. The defender, in his first season with Hollandia, has already won a pair of championships—the Hollandia Off-The-Wall and the Saskatoon United Soccer Club Tournament. In the Saskatoon event held early this year, Perez was named Player of the Game in the finals after helping Hollandia to a 2-0 victory against the then unbeaten Aurora.

"I would like to thank my coaches on Saipan for helping me learn how to play soccer. I would also like to thank NMIFA, its president Jerry Tan, and other officials and referees for providing us, kids, opportunities to play and have fun playing soccer," said Perez, who came to Saipan in 2014 and had no clue how soccer is played

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